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I am an agriculturist. No scheme that affects the livelihood of farmers can be brought into Tamil Nadu hereafter. We will never permit that.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** released the achievements issue Hon'ble Amma's Government "Sterling Three Years' Performance Testified by Number One Position", brought out by the Information and Public Relations Department both in English and Tamil, to mark the completion of three years of the Government under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at Secretariat, Chennai on 17.02.2020. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** received the achievement issues.

"STERLING THREE YEARS' PERFORMANCE TESTIFIED BY NUMBER ONE POSITION"

In connection with the completion of three years in office of Hon'ble Amma's Government under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, a souvenir –"Sterling Three Years' Performance - Testified by Number One Position", brought out in Tamil and English by the Department of Information and Public Relations as also 5 other compilations, a documentary on three years achievements and a coffee table book were released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat on 17.02.2020.

The compilations released were: Three years achievements compiled District wise; Hon'ble Chief Minister's speeches in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Chief Minister's speeches in different events, Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcements made under Rule 110 in the Legislative Assembly and quotable quotes from Hon'ble Chief Minister's speeches.

The souvenir "Sterling Three Years' Performance – Testified by Number One Position" and the compilation works - Chief Minister's speeches in the Assembly, Announcements made under Rule 110 in the Assembly, Chief Minister's speeches in different events - were received by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam.

The books, Tamil Nadu Government's three year achievements District wise, quotable quotes from the Hon'ble Chief Minister's speeches, and the DVDs containing the documentary were received by Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju.

The Coffee Table Book was received by the Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S.

The Tamil Nadu Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami which functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing through different Departments countless welfare schemes like '*kudimaramathu*' to protect water resources, creation of 5 new Districts for administrative convenience, new Government Medical Colleges in 11 Districts, attracting Rs.8,835 crore investments through Hon'ble Chief Minister's foreign tours, giving Rs.1,000 cash along with Pongal gift hamper to 2.05 crore families for grand Pongal celebrations, '*Nadanthaai Vaazhi Kaaveri*' scheme to restore the pristine glory of Cauvery river and its tributaries, setting up of world class Integrated Livestock Research Park at Thalaivasal in Salem District, introducing '*Kavalan*' App for the protection of women, releasing of Tamil Nadu e-Vehicle Policy 2019, 3 per cent reservation in jobs for meritorious sportspersons, 24 hours Kalvi Educational Channel for the benefit of students and the announcement of Cauvery delta region as 'Protected Special Agriculture Zone'.

By way of recognizing the numerous welfare schemes undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the State has been conferred many awards and recognitions like being ranked first in the Central Government's good governance, index,

winning 'Krishi Karman' award five times, 12 National Awards for e-governance in capacity building, child care, grama sabha, etc., National Award for 5 times for organ transplantation, 104 awards for the excellent performance of the Department of Rural Development, National Award for forerunner State in online learning and National Award for best service to senior citizens and it continues to progress further.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated: "Even after me and even after the passage of many centuries, this Government and this movement will function solely in the service of the people". Proving this statement, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami is steering the Government, providing good governance and working with total dedication to make Tamil Nadu the number one State in India. Marking the completion of three such eventful years, the souvenir, five other compilations, the video documentary and coffee table book were released.

In this event, Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information delivered the welcome address. Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., Director, Department of Information and Public Relations proposed a vote of thanks.

Hon'ble Ministers, higher Government officials and officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations participated in the event. ■

103rd Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, paid floral tributes, to the portrait of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R., placed near his statue in the Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University campus, Guindy, Chennai on 17.01.2020 in connection with his 103rd birth anniversary. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O.Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government, Director, Information and Public Relations and high officials were present during the occasion.

Hon’ble Chief Minister lays stone for Asia’s largest livestock Park at Thalaivasal, makes historic announcement

‘Cauvery Delta region to be declared as Protected Special Agriculture Zone’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the foundation laying ceremony for the World class Integrated Livestock Research Park at Thalaivasal, Salem District on 09.02.2020 *(English Translation)*

I bow to Goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam who delivered the presidential address at this excellent function to lay the foundation for an Integrated Livestock Research Park and a Veterinary College and the holding of an Agri-Fest and Exhibition, Hon’ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan who has been the pillar for the excellent conduct of this event and who expressed wonderful ideas here, Hon’ble Ministers, Hon’ble Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru.Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Government Chief Whip Thiru.S.Rajendran, Hon’ble Special Representative of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi Thiru.N.Thalavai Sundaram, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation Tmt.B.Valarmathi, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru.P.K.Vairamuthu, President of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank and my great support for this event, Thiru.R.Elangovan, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Dr.C.Balachandran, NABARD Chief Manager (Chennai) Tmt. Padma Ragunathan, participating Members of Parliament Thiruvalargal N.Chandrasekaran and A.K.P. Chinraj, Member of the Legislative Assembly and former Minister

Thiru.S.Semmalai, MLAs Thiruvalargal G.Venkatachalam, A.B. Sakthivel, S.Raja, S.Vetrivel, R.M. Chinnathambi, A.Marudhamuthu, Tmt. P. Manonmani and G. Chithra, Thiru.Kumaraguru, Thiru.Prabhu and Thiru. Thaniarasu, Salem President of Aavin Thiru.V.Jayaraman, President, Sagoserve Thiru.N.Thamizhmani, Thalaivasal Panchayat Union President Thiru.K.Ramasamy, District Panchayat President Tmt.R.Revathi, District Panchayat Member Thiru.P.Elangovan, Periyeri Panchayat President Thiru.T.Sekar, Panchayat Union Member Tmt.Thilakam Chandrasekar, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru.K.Shanmugam I.A.S., who delivered the welcome address and who is a great support for the excellent conduct of this event, Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Dr. K.Gopal I.A.S., who gave an explanatory speech on this project, organized this function and set up the pavilions, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Department of Agriculture Thiru.Gagandeep Singh Bedi I.A.S., who organized the Agri-Fest and the Exhibition to the delight of farmers, MPs and MLAs participating in this function from different parts of the state, former Minister Thiru.K.P.Munusamy, former MPs, MLAs and Ministers, Representatives of Local Bodies elected recently, Executives of Co-operative Societies, Party Executives, the huge gathering of farmers here, Elders, Ladies, Newspaper and Media friends, Salem District Collector Thiru.S.A.Raman I.A.S., who is to propose a vote of thanks – I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

Animal Husbandry is most essential to the life and economy of farmers as Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar had sung: *'Thannaiye koduppathil vaazhaikku eedu/samsaari vaazhvukku oru pasumaadu/ponnaiye thanthalum unakkethu eedu'* ('To a farmer a cow is comparable to plantain tree in usefulness; even gold pales in comparison to it)

Rearing animals is an important factor in modern agriculture. From the time man settled down to agriculture after the phase of hunting for food, animals have been reared as a part of the family.

A large section of farmers and farm labour greatly depend on Animal Husbandry as it yields milk, meat and eggs. Cattle are good companions to farmers and help farming greatly. Besides tilling to make the fields fertile, they provide fertilizer and serve as trustworthy friends. Animal Husbandry is becoming an export promotion industry on account of the increasing production of animal-related goods.

It is imperative to develop Village economy for our State's sustained growth. With the lofty intention that farmers income should also grow along with improvement of Animal Husbandry, Hon'ble Amma launched the scheme of distribution at no cost of milch cows, goats and sheep when she took over the administration in 2011. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said while inaugurating the scheme: "This scheme of distributing milch cows is an exemplary scheme to bring about a change in economy at the family level. It is a magnificent scheme with the potential of bringing about a White Revolution".

These schemes, the brainchild of Hon'ble Amma have succeeded in a grand scale. Let me give the examples of some beneficiaries:-

- In 2011-2012, Tmt. Sarada from Panayapuram Village Panchayat in Trichy District was given a milch cow with a calf. Now, in 9 years, she has 9 cows and 2 calves, and has improved milk production to more than 50 litres per day, and is economically independent.
- Likewise, Tmt.Ayyammal from Edaisevval Village Panchayat, Thoothukkudi District was given 3 female and one male animal (4 goats) in 2011-2012 under the distribution at no cost of goats/sheep scheme. Due to good rearing, 250 lambs were born and she earned Rs.4.12 lakh through sale of 170 of them. Now, she maintains 80 goats. This scheme brought about by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to develop the Village economy and make people depending on agriculture for a livelihood to stand on their own feet, is marching ahead successfully.
- Under the distribution of poultry at no cost scheme, Tmt.Sarada of Chikkadasanpalayam Village Panchayat, Coimbatore District was given 50 native Asil breed chicks. Good rearing yielded her 850 eggs and 158 hens in a year and she profited through their sale. At present, she maintains 155 hens. I quoted this example to show that this an excellent scheme. Engaging in poultry rearing has helped rural women agricultural labourers earn so much profit. This is the scheme Government has put forth to improve the Village economy. We are further developing this scheme brought about by Amma.

Animal products like egg and milk not only provide nutrition to the family that rears them but also increase the family income, ensuring a consistent livelihood. Like these example given here, innumerable instances can be cited all over Tamil Nadu.

I am happy to say that beneficiaries of these 3 schemes are to be honoured by the

Tamil Nadu Government in this function through presentation of awards. Under this scheme, cows costing Rs.357. 05 crore have so far been distributed to 96,944 beneficiaries; 45,61,720 goats and sheep, costing Rs.1,473 crore have been distributed to 11,40,430 beneficiaries.

I wish to point out that by allotting such huge sums and distributing at no cost milch cows, goats and sheep, the standard of living of farmers and farm labourers who have engaged themselves in this occupation has increased; the multiplication of the animals through their offspring – 1.98 lakh calves and 78,13,000 young goats – is another factor for the farmers living standard going up. This great scheme is being continued till date. As a result of this, I am happy to state, the number of goats has registered a 21 per cent increase as per the last 20th animal census. At the National level, Tamil Nadu has come in the first place in poultry population, 5th in the number of sheep and the 7th place in the number of goats. If the animal population has increased so much, I don't consider it necessary to mention about the economic development of Villagers, particularly women.

To take forward this growth in Animal Husbandry and thereby add to the benefits accruing to farmers, I conceived of this Livestock Park and held consultations with many experts for many days on how the park should function. Also, I have ordered the adoption of ultra modern methods, practised in the huge cattle farm in Buffalo city which I visited when I recently went to the USA. I had also dispatched the Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Department officials to Australia to learn about the technology adopted there in cattle rearing and the facilities provided. These technologies too will be adopted in this proposed Livestock Park.

Before going into the important features to be adopted in this Park, I wish to mention how a new impetus has been given to the Department of Animal Husbandry by Hon'ble Amma and Amma's Government.

1. Veterinary College and Research Institutes were set up at Orathanadu in Thanjavur District and at Tirunelveli.
2. College of Poultry Production and Management has been set up at Hosur.
3. A 'semen separation unit' is proposed to be set up at the Udhagamandalam District Cattle Farm to produce calves on a large scale, distribute them to farmers and improve their standard of living. We have prepared the scheme so as to supply the gender of calf that the farmer wants. We propose to implement the scheme in a novel and scientific way by leaving the choice to the farmer himself to have a male calf / female calf of the particular breed he wants.
4. For the development of 'Aalambaadi' breed cows, a research institute is being set up in Dharmapuri District.
5. New cattle sheds numbering 2,037 have been constructed at a cost of Rs.614 crore. This is historic. We set up hospitals for human beings who are endowed with the faculty of speech. Likewise, to provide appropriate treatment to animals that cannot speak, Amma's Government allotted more funds. Tamil Nadu should shine as a model State in Animal Husbandry by allotting more funds, not done hitherto, to

this Department. Similarly, it is Amma's Government that has established veterinary hospitals on a large scale for providing immediate treatment to the afflicted cattle.

6. Under the Animal Husbandry Department, 14 polyclinics, 16 big veterinary hospitals, 147 hospitals, 2,721 dispensaries, 825 branch units and 56 mobile medical units are functioning in Tamil Nadu. Amma's Government has set up so many hospitals, all for the welfare of the livestock reared by farmers as a secondary occupation, and for their immediate treatment in the event of illness.

7. In the last 9 years alone, 8 polyclinics, 10 hospitals and 200 branch units and 1,080 dispensaries have been opened. Through this, production and productivity of animals in the State has been ensured on account of the timely medical service to the cattle and poultry.

8. The foot-and-mouth disease afflicting cattle has been totally brought under control in Tamil Nadu on account of 17 rounds of vaccination. In 2018, this vaccination was administered to 93 lakh cows and buffaloes and in 2019, 94 lakh animals were vaccinated. Moreover, the scheme of immunization against the foot-and-mouth disease, twice in a year, will be continued. I wish to state at this hour that our Government is ever vigilant about safeguarding the cattle reared by our agriculturists from any disease.

9. On some occasions, emergency treatment is required to save the cattle from diseases. For averting loss to farmers by preventing cattle deaths, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced the veterinary ambulance service as a pilot project in the year 2016. As this service was well received by cattle rearers, I recently inaugurated the 'Amma Ambulance' service with a fleet of 22 air conditioned ambulance vehicles, valued at Rs.2,39,48,000. Farmers get this service through the toll free phone number 1962. On receipt of information, veterinary doctors rush to the place and treat the animal through the ambulance. If

advanced treatment is needed, the cattle is transported to the veterinary hospital itself by the ambulance and treatment accorded. The only Government that saves farmers cattle is Amma's Government.

10. Cattle should be fed nutritious feed in proper proportion. For this, several steps are being taken to create awareness among cattle growers that 'green fodder crop is also a cash crop'. Besides, a 'state fodder development scheme' is also being implemented. I request farmers to grow green fodder crop in their own fields through this scheme and benefit.

11. As the demand for native poultry eggs and meat has increased, the backyard poultry development industry has succeeded to a great extent.

12. Taking this into account, Hon'ble Amma's Government launched a scheme in 2018-2019 under the poultry development scheme, of distributing at no cost Asil variety native hens with cages to 77,000 beneficiaries at the rate of 50 each in all Districts barring Chennai, for encouraging backyard poultry rearing and benefiting rural poor women.

13. Under this scheme, in the last 2 years, 44,84,050 chicks, costing Rs.54.68 crore were distributed to 1,02,362 rural women.

On account of the improvement in the rural economy due to the implementation of cattle and poultry development schemes like these and the execution of various agriculture development schemes as well as the great improvements achieved in all sectors, I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu is the premier state in the whole of India in attaining the 'poverty free status', one of the indices fixed by the UN for sustained development.

I impressed upon the Union Commerce Minister that inland milk producers would be greatly affected if milk products were to be included in the Free Trade Agreement to

be signed by the India - ASEAN with New Zealand, Australia and other countries and urged him to avert it. This protected the interests of milk producers not only in Tamil Nadu but also in the whole of India.

The many initiatives taken by Hon'ble Amma and Amma's Government has made Tamil Nadu as one of the frontranking states in milk production. Likewise milk procurement has also increased from 21 lakh litres per day in 2010-2011 to 34 lakh litres in 2019-2020

- Hon'ble Amma's Government has created 8 new District milk producers unions to facilitate procurement of milk near the Aavin establishments itself. This has reduced the difficulties of the producers.
- Recently elections were held to the Milk Producers' Societies and unions to strengthen their administration. I conducted a review meeting with all Union Presidents, General Managers, Deputy Registrars of Dairy Development, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Senior Ministers and directed creation of all facilities to agriculturists engaged in cattle rearing.
- We have increased the procurement price of milk to the level of Rs.6 per litre for buffalo milk and to the level of Rs.4 per litre for cow's milk to help milk producers earn considerable income.
- To market the increasing milk production in a proper way, our Aavin establishment is preparing milk in carrot, apple and mango flavours to suit the taste of the people, and ice cream in grape, pineapple, orange and chocolate flavours.
- Aavin's sales outlets have also been opened in Singapore, Hong Kong, Qatar and Dubai
- Hon'ble Amma's Government is also setting up an ice cream factory at Madurai at a cost of Rs.55 crore and a flavoured milk production factory at Aanaiyur at a cost of Rs.45 crore. Works are on.
- At present an automatic cattle fodder production unit with a capacity of about 150 metric tonnes is functioning at the Erode Dairy Farm to supply quality fodder at fair price for increasing the milk production. This centre will be expanded.
- A new cattle fodder factory is being set up at Virudhunagar.
- The cattle fodder factory in Madurai will be revived.
- I wish to state that 3 more new cattle fodder factories will be set up in the Districts of Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirapalli and Salem for the supply of quality fodder to farmers rearing cattle. Quality fodder alone can ensure increased milk yield.
- In the last 8 years alone, 58 new milk parlours have been opened for making Aavin's milk and milk products easily available to the public.

The measures taken on fish production are as follows:

- A fishing harbour at Poompuhar at a cost of Rs.148 crore.
- A fishing harbor has been set up at a cost of Rs.114 crore at Mookaiyur, Ramanathapuram.

- ✶ Also, fishing harbours are being set up at Tiruvottiyur kuppam at a cost of Rs.200 crore, at Vellapallam, Nagapattinam District (Rs.100 crore) and at Tharangampadi and Cuddalore (Rs.100 crore each). Fishing harbours are being set up on fishermen's demands.
- ✶ In the last 8 years, 57 fish landing floors have been set up at a cost of Rs.441 crore. Thirty Government fish farms have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.103 crore.
- ✶ At 12 places retaining walls to prevent sea erosion have been constructed at a cost of Rs.168 crore.
- ✶ In 5 places deepening of bar mouth at a cost of Rs.72 crore has been completed.
- ✶ Marketing of fish has been developed with the setting up of 16 modern fish markets, 3 mobile fish food eateries and one modern fish food production centre.
- ✶ Wireless communication facilities have been created at a cost of Rs.66 crore for the safety of deep sea fishermen.
- ✶ In 2019-2020, about Rs.81.75 crore was given as fishing ban period relief assistance to 1.64 lakh fishermen families.
- ✶ As a lean period relief assistance, Rs.51.84 crore was given to 1.04 lakh fishermen families.
- ✶ Hon'ble Amma's Government is providing subsidies for fuel to fishermen.
- ✶ Fish production went up to 6.75 lakh tonnes due to the many steps taken like supplying fish seeds to fish growers, introducing new fish varieties that can be reared, introducing modern technology and creation of hygienic fish sale stalls and markets in inland areas. High fish production fetched Tamil Nadu the fourth place at the all India level.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. sang: '*Kadavul ennum mudhalali kandeduttha thozhilali vivasaayee'* (The farmer is God's favourite worker). In tune with this sentiment and to safeguard our farmers, availability and conveyance of water till the tail-end areas were ensured with the dredging of water bodies and supply channels. As a result, the cultivation area has increased this year by 7 lakh acres. Likewise, to ensure the conservation of rain water as outlined by Hon'ble Amma, to increase capacity of water bodies and safeguard them and to ensure efficient water utilization in agriculture, I launched a great people's movement, the Water Resources Protection and Water Augmentation Mission.

Besides, Hon'ble Amma's Government that safeguards the welfare of farmers, has disbursed Rs.1,868 crore under the 'Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam' towards relief on various Departments such as education, marriage and accidents.

I had already stated in the Legislative Assembly that we can take a morsel of food in our hand only if the farmer soils his feet in the mire. This shows the extent of the physical labour that farmers engage in. Our Government is implementing many schemes for farmers who toil round-the-clock without minding the changes in weather and sheds his blood in the form of sweat. As a farmer myself, I understand their problems and as a result of the steps taken to alleviate them, this Government is leaving its stamp on the agriculture sector.

Already, our agriculture secretary has clearly and beautifully pointed out the various ways in which the Government is helping farmers.

- ✶ To protect farmers from the grip of drought in 2016-2017, Amma's Government, that had just taken over the administration, distributed Rs.2,247 crore as drought relief.
- ✶ From 2011 till date Rs.48,000 crore has been distributed as crop loan to benefit 90 lakh farmers. No other Government has done this so far. The intention behind the loan disbursal is that farmers should not miss the agriculture season.
- ✶ As an index of achievement in the whole of India, Amma's Government got farmers a maximum compensation of Rs.7,528 crore in the last 3 years under the crop insurance scheme .
- ✶ The mobile app 'Uzhavan' has been introduced in the service of farmers. In the present times, agriculture practices should go modern. This app addresses farmers needs.
- ✶ Amma's Government protects farmers as a fortress. That is why when the maize crop was attacked by the Fall Army Worm last year, this Government, conceding farmers demand, provided a relief of Rs.186.25 crore to compensate their crop loss. This year, the Tamil Nadu Government took steps on its own to control the Fall Army Worm attack through pesticide spraying at a cost of Rs.47.66 crore.
- ✶ To control the 'Aanaikomban' pest attack on the samba crop in delta Districts, the Government provided timely assistance of Rs.82 lakh for spraying pesticide and controlled the attack.
- ✶ Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken steps to get compensation to farmers under the crop insurance scheme whose samba paddy crop has been affected by the '*Pugaiyan*' pest attack.
- ✶ Hon'ble Amma's Government amended the Act concerned, for the tapping of 'Neera' juice for coconut farmers to earn more profit. Licence has so far been given to 13 coconut producers' societies which have tapped 8 lakh litres of 'Neera' juice; valued added by-products prepared from that juice and valued at Rs.11 crore have benefited nearly 6,500 coconut farmers.
- ✶ Hon'ble Amma's Government is paying attention, in the interest of farmers, to process and add value to agriculture produce for reducing the post-harvest

loss. Accordingly, it is implementing Supply Chain Management scheme in 18 Districts at a cost of Rs. 585 crore in the interest of fruit and vegetable growing farmers.

- ✶ My Government is acting speedily to set up Food Parks at a cost of Rs.217 crore in the 8 Districts of Salem, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Theni, Madurai and Villupuram. Through these successive actions, we are helping farmers take their produce directly to these food processing Institutes and get good prices for them. This will considerably avert wastage; job opportunities will increase with more such Institutes coming up. On these considerations I announced a Food Processing Policy. Making this a model scheme, as per this policy we have announced that entrepreneurs coming forward to set up food processing units will be given capital subsidy, interest subsidy, exemption from stamp duty, tax concession and the like.

- ✶ I take pride in announcing the happy news that Hon'ble Amma's Government will take steps to create more such food processing clusters and very big food parks in Tamil Nadu.

- ✶ In the last 3 years, micro irrigation scheme has been implemented in 3.3 lakh hectares at a cost of about Rs.1,480 crore.

- ✶ In the last 8 years farmers have purchased at a subsidy of Rs.486 crore, 92,112 tractors, power tillers and sowing and harvesting machines and have benefited.

- ✶ To help farmers get agriculture machinery at low rent, machine rental centres have been set up at the taluk level (1,665) and at Village level (about 1,000) at a subsidy of Rs.234 crore.

- ✶ In the last 8 years, 3 Government Agriculture Colleges and one Horticulture College have been set up with an intake of 365 students per year in agriculture courses. More over 23 private colleges have been set up to provide agriculture education to 2,500 students.

- ✶ With its 7 different climate zones, Tamil Nadu is a suitable place for horticulture crop cultivation. Considering the importance of horticulture crops that can enhance farmers' income in a big way, Hon'ble Amma started a new Government Horticulture College for women at Tiruchirapalli even in 2011. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to take various steps for research in horticulture crops, innovation, expansion, spread-out yields and increasing the income of farmers.

- ✶ Also, on the request of a delegation of farmers undertaking flower farming, led by former Minister Thiru.K.P. Munusamy, for the setting up of an International Flower Auction Centre at Hosur to make good the great loss sustained by flower farmers in Krishnagiri, Hosur, Salem and other areas, I am happy to inform that works on such a centre at a cost of Rs.20 crore are apace at Hosur.
- ✶ In the last 8 years, 771 agriculture staff, 372 horticulture staff and 135 agriculture engineers have been appointed.
- ✶ In the interest of small and micro farmers, Hon'ble Amma's Government introduced the collective farming scheme in 2017-2018. So far, 6,000 Farmers Producer Groups (FPGs) with a membership of 6 lakh farmers have been formed. Each FPG has been given a consolidated fund of Rs.5 lakh, enabling them to purchase more than 16,000 numbers of agriculture machinery to carry on collective farming and benefit.
- ✶ To improve the standard of living of small and marginal farmers, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps continuously to integrate Farmers Interest Groups to form Farmers Producer Organisations by providing sufficient loans and strengthening them administratively and commercially. In the 2019-2020 Budget, Hon'ble Amma's Government announced that an exclusive policy would be framed for Farmers Producer Organisations. Accordingly, I have released today the Tamil Nadu Farmers Producer Organization Policy. I hope this will bring about a great change in the lives of small and marginal farmers.
- ✶ A pilot project - Mission on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture - was started in 2016-2017 to help earn high profits through this system of cultivation. Under this project, different rain fed land development schemes were implemented in 25 lakh acres and 9.44 lakh farmers benefited.

I am happy to state that due to many such schemes and initiation of various measures consecutively, farmers income has increased and the Village economy has risen. To crown it all, Tamil Nadu got the Central Government's highest Krishi Karman Award 5 times in the last 8 years for high food grain production made possible by the hard work put in by you, our farmers.

Hon'ble Amma's Government, which implements many such schemes, proposes to set up as a milestone project and at a cost of Rs.1,023 crore, a huge, modern livestock park of international standards that will make our farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen proud. The foundation for this park is laid today. I am happy to say the works on this Park will be completed soon and it will be brought for people's use.

I wish to state here, the special features of this Park:

- ✶ It will be set up on an area of about 1,100 acres.
- ✶ This park will have 3 sections. In the first, a veterinary hospital with modern facilities and a milch cow farm to demonstrate modern farm practices to farmers, will be set up. Besides these, a livestock farm to

protect and breed native cattle varieties like Kangeyam, Umbalacheri, Aalambaadi, Pulikulam and Bargur as also native canine breeds like Rajapalayam, Chippiparai, Kombai and Kanni, will also be set up.

- This farm will also have divisions for breeding indigenous varieties of goats like Mecheri, Ramanathapuram White, Chennai Red, Keezhkarisal, Vembur, Tiruchi Black, Coimbatore, Kachaikatti Black, Sevvadu and Nilgiri and sheep like Kanni Aadu, Kodi Aadu and Salem Black.
- To encourage white pig rearing, a world class white pig farm with all facilities is proposed to be set up.
- In the second section, facilities will be created for protecting and processing milk, meat, fish, egg and the like, for producing by-products and value-added products from them and for marketing them.
- In the proposed fisheries model complex costing Rs.2.94 crore, a fish seed centre using air blowers and water re-cycling will be set up on a 2,000 sq. metre area; 20 lakh quality fish seeds per year will be supplied by this centre to persons rearing fish.
- The third section will have an academic complex with facilities like higher education and research in veterinary and livestock-related technology, training centre for farmers and coaching centre for industrial entrepreneurs.
- In this same complex, a Veterinary College is proposed to be set up at a cost of Rs.82.17 crore. This will enhance the number of seats in veterinary education by 80.
- In this modern livestock park, facilities are proposed to be created for all students of the Tamil Nadu Animal Sciences and Veterinary University to undertake training and for international veterinary students to undertake research.
- This will be a complex with all basic facilities for students, researchers, industrial entrepreneurs and consumers.
- Research will be undertaken to produce cross-bred cows and native cows that will be climate and disease resistant, maintainable at low cost and high milk yielding.
- An ultra modern world class cattle farm with 500 cross-bred cows will be created. In this farm, an ultra modern automated factory with a milk processing capacity of 25,000 litres and manufacturing 12 types of milk products and an ultra modern factory with a production capacity of 50 metric tonnes of cattle feed and mineral salt mixing, is to be set up. At the Agri-Fest exhibition, inaugurated by me today, 224 pavilions have been set up by the Departments of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering, Horticulture, Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Agriculture University, Fisheries University, other Government Departments inclusive of PWD and private institutions connected with these Departments. Modern technologies have been put on show.
- Academic and practical demonstrations will be provided to farmers on best maintenance of livestock and best production methods. Also, seminars on topics connected

with useful technologies related to the Departments of agriculture, cattle and fisheries have been arranged. I wish to state that seminars are to be held tomorrow and the day after on the methods of rearing livestock to earn high profit and on the new crop varieties and new cultivation methods.

- On display at the exhibition are the machinery and implements needed to set up dairy farm and technological explanations on the manufacture of cattle feed.
- Different varieties of fishes, ornamental fishes, fisheries technology, value added fish food etc. are exhibited in the fisheries pavilion.
- The agriculture Department pavilion is exhaustive, covering subjects like high yielding varieties in different types of crops, modern technologies, micro irrigation, kinds of agri-machinery, solar power pump sets, dryers, fences, subsidies to farmers in different schemes, value adding machinery, value added products prepared by farmer-producer organizations and all information connected with agri-education, research and the new agro commercial industrialists. This is not an ordinary event. When farmers visit this Agri-Fest they will have a full-fledged knowledge about agriculture and Animal Husbandry. They can learn through this exhibition the suitable time of cultivation for the different types of crops and the correct pesticide to be applied in the event of pest attacks.
- I request farmers and students to make use of this rare opportunity and get their doubts clarified with the experts here and benefit. Also, you should share the many technological matters you have learnt in this exhibition with your relatives who have not come here so that they can also benefit.
- To meet the water requirements of this complex, 11 MLD water will be supplied to this region from Mettur dam at a cost of Rs.262.16 crore.
- I wish to point out that we have provided many schemes on behalf of the Department of school education in this event today.

I am proud to say that the central Government's good governance index report has ranked Tamil Nadu first in good governance for the year 2019, an achievement of Hon'ble Amma's Government. The conclusion was arrived at against 50 indices, applied in 10 Departments inclusive of agriculture, industry, human resources development, public health, infrastructure facilities and social welfare schemes.

Hon'ble Amma's Government, on account of its various developmental works, has bagged awards not only from the central Government but from various other organizations. Out of jealousy over all this, the opposition party has started denigrating those conferring the awards. The Leader of the Opposition asked the media: "Who has given the award to the Tamil Nadu Government? Call him; I want to beat him!" What a great honour it is to get a national award! That too, when Tamil Nadu is ranked first, it is an honour to all. It is not an honour to the Government alone but also to the whole of Tamil Nadu. But one person cannot bear it. He is the leader of the Opposition! Today, I thank the Government staff who worked hard for this award.

I am reminded of a story in this regard.

In a town, there was an old man living in a hut. One day a goddess appeared before him suddenly, presented a magic mirror as a gift and disappeared, stating that the mirror would fulfil three wishes.

To find out if this actually worked, the old man wished that his hut must become a storeyed house, and it happened. As a second wish, he desired good rains that would fill up the tanks and ponds in his town, and the next moment, it rained and the tanks and ponds brimmed with water. After pondering for some time, the good man wished that his town should have all facilities and nothing should be wanting as if it were heaven. When he stepped out of his house, he saw the entire town had changed into a heavenly place.

Next morning, a tenant in a house across the street started wondering how there was sudden rain all through the night, how this old man's hut had changed into a storeyed house and how the whole town had been transformed. He asked the old person what had happened. The old man narrated the events.

The avaricious and jealous man in the opposite house asked the old man to lend him the mirror just for a day and the old man obliged.

Conscious of his flat nose, the man in the opposite house requested the mirror to give him a big nose. His nose got enlarged to 3 feet. "I don't want this nose at all", cried out the distraught man. Then his nose disappeared altogether! Alarmed over the development, the man made his third request to the mirror for the restoration of his old nose, and it was granted. Thereafter, whatever he requested went in vain as he had exhausted 3 wishes for his selfish ends.

This story shows that the opportunities avaricious persons get will not be useful to others at all.

The old man in the story sought a boon for himself and got a storeyed house. After seeing the utility of the magic mirror, he made the other two requests for the common good. But the man in the opposite house had only selfish wishes. They went waste and did not benefit him as well.

The opposition parties here are like the man in the opposite house. They think, This Government is winning awards for its good works. It is getting a good name among the people. Do we have a political future at all", and being racked by fear and jealousy, they utter lies every day whenever they open their mouth, and conduct a propaganda of lies.

Take for example, the Neduvasal issue. The Central Government may bring forward any scheme, but without the State Government's no objection certificate, works cannot be started. Everyone knows this. The Leader of the Opposition also knows it. I have been emphatic several times within the Assembly and without also that Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions with the sole aim of people's welfare will not issue any NOC for that. The truth is that it was Thiru.T.R.Balu of the DMK who sowed the seed for this scheme which will turn Thanjavur, the rice granary, into a desert. The presence of methane gas in the Rajasthan desert was found in 1996. The then Minister of State for Petroleum Thiru.T.R.Balu decided to implement the scheme in the delta region of

Tamil Nadu and got the Central Government's approval for it in 2010. Likewise, it was the DMK Government that granted permission in January 2011 to the Great Eastern Energy Corporation for 4 years to sink bore wells for its survey work. The Memorandum of Understanding for that was also signed in the presence of the present Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin. In that agreement, the then DMK Government assured that the Tamil Nadu Government would extend all help for this project. But now, they create trouble there by mobilizing their party men and through false propaganda. It is the DMK which brought the hydro carbon scheme. It is the DMK which implemented it. Thiru.T.R.Balu has stated this in an interview. It was published in newspapers and media. They have given a confessional statement that it was the DMK which brought this scheme. It was the All India ADMK Government that prevented it. I wish to state at this hour that it was our Government that stopped this scheme.

Hon'ble Amma's Government always gives importance to agriculture in consonance with the film song, *"Yer munaikku nere ingu eduvume ille; endrum namma vaazhvile panjame ille"* ('There is no scarcity ever in our lives as there is nothing here comparable to agriculture'). While greater importance is given particularly to production of food grains, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, fruits and the like, Tamil Nadu Government also encourages industries that promote growth and other service sectors.

For getting water resources for the farmers of delta Districts, '*Ponniyin Selvi*' Hon'ble Amma, and following her, Hon'ble Amma's Government waged court battles, resulting in the setting up, as per Supreme Court's judgment, of the Cauvery Management Authority and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. It was in this way that Tamil Nadu's rights on Cauvery river water were established. Hon'ble Amma's Government did all these things. In issues like Parambikulam and Mullaiperiyar, Hon'ble Amma's Government is not only taking legal steps but other steps also, continuously in the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers. As an example for that, I myself met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala and held discussions in connection with the above issues. This effort continues.

When agriculture was affected in the delta region in 2017 and 2018 on account of monsoon failure, Amma's Government implemented a special '*kuruvai*' package scheme to enable cultivation, using ground water.

The Cauvery Delta Zone which produces 33 lakh metric tonnes of food grains in about 28 lakh acres, remains the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu. Despite the challenges posed by natural calamities like floods, drought and cyclones, farmers of this region continue to engage themselves in agriculture. In this situation, the concerns of farmers and farm labour, over their livelihood, getting affected by schemes like hydro carbon, are justifiable. As the core of the delta region lies adjacent to the coastal line, there is the possibility of sea water incursion. Hence, it has become necessary to protect this region.

I wish to make a historically great announcement in this Agri-Fest function for protecting the Cauvery delta region that has merged with the sentiments of Tamils for thousands of more years preceding the days of

Karikal Peruvalathan, and to avert hurdles to the agriculture industry there.

In the interests of farmers of the Cauvery Delta zone, the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu, and to ensure Tamil Nadu's food safety, I declare that the Districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam and the Cauvery delta areas in the Districts of Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur and Tiruchirapalli, will be made into a "Protected Special Agriculture Zone". I, once again reiterate the declaration that our Government will make the delta regions a "Protected Special Agriculture Zone". Delta region farmers have been expressing their feelings for long. I am happy to state that our Government has felt those agonizing concerns and has made this declaration. Though a Chief Minister, I am also an agriculturist. From that stand point, I have made this announcement to eliminate totally the hardships, sorrows and sufferings of farmers. I firmly declare that Hon'ble Amma's Government will take appropriate steps to implement it by enacting a separate law after consulting legal experts and exploring the ways and means. I also declare that this Government will never allow implementation of new hydro carbon schemes in this region. I am an agriculturist. No scheme that affects the livelihood of farmers can be brought into Tamil Nadu hereafter. We will never permit that.

However, I wish to state, this Government will encourage, as per needs, industries that use as raw materials, the produce grown in the Cauvery delta region and other agriculture related industries.

Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry has made good arrangements for this function; he has acted speedily and worked day and night to set up pavilions and conduct this event in an excellent manner. He visited the place several times and gave his advice on the design of the pavilions. I convey my thanks at this hour to the Secretary to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, a great support to the Minister, to the Secretary to the Department of Agriculture and to the Chief Secretary to the Government.

We have established that ours is a farmers' Government. Farmers and farm labourers provide food for this Nation. The Government should bestow attention on them. On that basis, we act to improve agriculture further. We have organized this event to impress on better rearing of livestock which has become a secondary occupation of agriculture. Totally 224 pavilions have been set up – 25 by Animal Husbandry Department, 21 by Aavin, 10 by Fisheries Department, 142 by the Departments of Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering and Horticulture and 26 by other Departments. Agriculturists should go round all these pavilions as they have been set up only for agriculturists. Today, they have to adopt scientific farm practices.

We propose to set up a livestock park to double the income in Animal Husbandry. Farmers will get more income when cross-bred, high milk yielding cows suitable for our climate are developed in this Livestock Research Institute and handed over to them. It is for this purpose that we propose to set up an Integrated Livestock Research Park, the biggest in Asia, at Thalaivasal Koottu road in Salem District, Tamil Nadu. It is to come up between the Districts of Kallakurichi and Salem; people

of Kallakurichi District will benefit more than those of Salem District. We have created Kallakurichi District by dividing Villupuram District, following demands for such a new District from the MLAs of the District and from personnel of various organizations there. It is only a short time since Kallakurichi District has been formed but there is a demand for a new Government Medical College. Amma's Government has obliged; within a few months of the formation of the new District, Amma's Government is starting a new Government Medical College. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister has already stated that the only Government that brought 11 Government Medical Colleges in a year was Amma's Government. Through these colleges, we have created the conditions for 1,100 new students to pursue medical education. One should ponder how this Government is functioning. But the Leader of the Opposition is unable to see all this. He is always saying that this Government should be removed; that this is an anti-people Government. Is it an anti-people Government? How many schemes we have implemented; how many Medical Colleges we have opened; how many veterinary hospitals we have opened! It is Amma's Government that has opened veterinary hospitals on a large scale in the entire country. So too in respect of Agriculture Colleges. It is only Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government that is the guardian of agriculturists. You, the Leader of the Opposition can utter any lies; can slander in any way; slandering the Chief Minister, issuing slanderous news when the Government receives an award, spreading slanderous information about Hon'ble Ministers and trying to get political advantage – you can try anything but nothing will work; because we are born to strive. The AIADMK was founded by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and nurtured by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. A party created by two great leaders is ruling the State. Both the leaders are incomparable leaders who worked all through their lives for the people. To realize their dream is our aim; and we are carrying it out today. So, however many slanderous campaigns are let loose by either the leader of the Opposition or by members of other opposition parties, they will not cut ice with the people. The AIADMK movement is one that toils for the people. The AIADMK Government is one that works. We serve the people with a sense of dedication. Our journey will continue and continue on the path of the ideals and wishes of these two great leaders who had dedicated their lives entirely in the service of the people.

I take leave of you, thanking the staff of the Departments of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture for organizing this event in such an excellent manner, the Salem District Collector, local bodies representatives of this region, executives of co-operative societies, newspaper and media friends, and all the agriculturists participating in this historic event, and making the assurance that this livestock park will become internationally renowned. Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry requested that a Research Centre should be set up for pet animals also. Stating that request too will be carried out, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tamil Nadu expects 7.27 per cent growth while providing handsomely for many welfare schemes

(Budget 2020 - 2021)

Speech of **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,** Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, presenting the Budget for the year 2020-2021 to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 14th February, 2020.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

"வாரி பெருக்கி வளம்படுத்து உற்றவை
ஆராய்வான் செய்க வினை"

(குறள் 512)

'Who increases the revenues, promotes the prosperity of the land, removes all the impediments to progress, let him be entrusted with the execution of the work.'

(Kural 512)

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was an exemplar of the immortal words of Sage Thiruvalluvar, as she greatly increased the financial resources available, allocated resources to all sectors, developed the State, crushed impediments, brushed aside hindrances, and functioned with the sole objective of ensuring the welfare of the people and there by placing Tamil Nadu on the growth path to become the numero uno State in India. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma lived by the motto 'I am by the people and for the people' and as her life's mission, served the people of the State tirelessly, day and night and secured a place forever in the hearts of the people of

Tamil Nadu. This Government led very capably by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, rests on the edifice of the hard work and the sacrifices of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

2) Having showered affection on the poor, protected the vulnerable, empowered women and toiled every single day only for the welfare of Tamil people, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma finds a permanent place in the hearts and minds of the people of the State. Amma continues to live amongst us in spirit and I salute her and with her blessings and guidance, I rise to present before this august House the Budget for the financial year 2020-2021.

3) This Government is doing its utmost to realize the aspiration of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to make Tamil Nadu the numero uno State in India. We will continue to follow the vision of the late Chief Minister and carry forward her motto 'Peace, Progress and Prosperity', so that the people of the State reap in full the benefits of good governance.

4) When the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa left us more than three years ago we felt orphaned. However, as a true mother, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had guided us on the path of service to the people. Amma strengthened in each one of us the resolve and determination to persevere in our mission and developed in each one of us the capacity to serve the people of the State. Initially, many doubted the durability of the Government. But this Government protected by the legacy and blessings of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and led by the very capable Hon'ble Chief Minister has proved all its critics and nay sayers completely wrong. Not only have we survived for three years, but we have gone from strength to strength. We have performed in a manner that has won us accolades from not only from across India but even overseas.

5) We have won awards from the Government of India for good governance in 2019 and from the India Today media group as the Best Performing State in the country for two years in a row. We have made Tamil Nadu a haven of peace and tranquillity. We have offered policy stability, predictability and coherence. This is a Government which is accessible and responsive to genuine representations, suggestions and grievances. We hear the voice of the people and resolve their issues. We have reached out to the poorest and the most vulnerable. We are open to high quality advice from experts and scholars and we have acted on good advice. We have implemented schemes and programmes with zeal, dedication and diligence. We are the most preferred development partner for many multilateral financial institutions and the preferred destination for investors to make their investments. We have ensured that Tamil Nadu is a State where people can live in peace and realise their dreams and aspirations and call upon the responsive Government to deliver what they need.

6) This Government will ensure that Law and Order continues to be well maintained in the State and the people of the State continue to feel a sense of security and well being. More and more investment and greater economic activity in all sectors will generate more jobs and incomes for the people. The Government will proactively step in to protect and provide for the poor, the vulnerable and the downtrodden. This Budget contains a number of welfare programs aimed to realize the vision of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa that everyone should possess everything and attain a state of complete absence of deprivation.

7) Global and national level economic headwinds are faced by Tamil Nadu as well, at this time. At the All India level, the growth estimates for 2019-2020 have been revised downwards and projected at 5 per cent in constant price terms. But Tamil Nadu has withstood these fierce headwinds. Due to the diversified nature of the economy of the State, the sustained policy initiatives of the State Government, but above all by the dint of hard work and effort by the industrious and productive people of the State, Tamil Nadu's economy grew at 8.17 percent in 2018-2019. In 2019-2020, growth is projected to be 7.27 percent, which is significantly higher than the projected all India growth rate of 5 percent. We expect an even stronger growth performance in 2020-2021.

8) The Fifteenth Finance Commission (15th FC) has presented its report for the year 2020-2021 which has been placed before the Parliament on February 1, 2020 along with an Action Taken Memorandum (ATM). The final report of the Commission for the 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is to be presented later this year. The Commission has recommended that the overall vertical devolution of taxes from the Centre to the States be reduced from 42 per cent to 41 per cent, which has only a marginal impact as Jammu and Kashmir has now become two Union Territories and will not share in the pool. The inter se horizontal share of Tamil Nadu has increased marginally from 4.023 per cent, to 4.189 per cent which is a welcome reversal in the trend of Tamil Nadu's share consistently going down in the last few Finance Commissions' reports. But, it still does not make up for the injustices heaped on Tamil Nadu in the past, especially by the 14th Finance Commission. The State will again stronglypitch before the 15th Finance Commission that a performing State like Tamil Nadu gets adequately rewarded and incentivized through a progressive formula and mechanism for sharing of resources.

9) The 15th Finance Commission has accepted Tamil Nadu's assessment that the State will have a post devolution revenue deficit and recommended a revenue deficit grant of Rs.4,025 crore for Tamil Nadu.This is finally a recognition of the committed welfare oriented expenditure of the State which fulfils the people's legitimate aspirations. However, while in the Action Taken Memorandum, the Central Government has indicated that the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission on post devolution revenue deficit grants is accepted, as against the total grant of Rs.74,340 crore recommended by the Commission, the Union Budget includes a provision of only Rs.30,000 crore. This Government will take up the issue of adequate budgetary provision with the Central Government and ensure that the State receives its entire recommended grant in 2020-2021.

10) In the Union Budget 2020-2021, the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has indicated that hereafter transfers to the GST Compensation Fund would be limited only to collection by way of GST Compensation Cess. The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 was enacted to provide compensation to States for loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST based on the constitutional obligation of the Government of India to compensate the States for a period of 5 years in the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016. Our late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa had made it clear that Tamil Nadu would support GST, only if there was an iron-clad guarantee of compensation enshrined in the Constitution itself. It is the obligation of the Government of India to find resources to pay the compensation, and there should be no effort to limit the compensation payable to the States.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already raised this issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister in October, 2019. I urge the Government of India to discuss the matter in the GST Council to arrive at an appropriate solution.

Tamil Development

11) This Government is committed to celebrate and spread awareness about the glory of Tamil Language and culture. To this end, the Government has supported efforts to establish Tamil teaching at well known universities in India and abroad, including Harvard University, Houston University, Banaras Hindu University and Guwahati University. In 2019, the Government has assisted the 10th International Tamil Research Conference at Chicago, the 4th European Tamil Research Conference held at Paris and the Tamil Internet Conference held at Anna University. A Research Chair in the name of the renowned Tamil scholar Robert Caldwell with a grant of Rs.1 crore will be established in Tamil University to conduct research in the area of comparative study of grammar (Oppilakkanam). A sum of Rs.74.08 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the Tamil Development Department.

12) The findings of the archaeological excavations at Keeladi have generated immense interest amongst the public about the antiquity of Tamil civilization. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned an amount of Rs.12.21 crore for the establishment of a world class new site museum at Keeladi. The Department of Archaeology has secured approval of the Archaeological Survey of India for archaeological explorations in four more clusters which will reveal more about ancient Tamil civilization. The Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 includes a provision of Rs.31.93 crore for the Department of Archaeology.

Sustainable Development Goals

13) The Sustainable Development Goals 2030, adopted by the Union Nations and in turn by the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu with 17 goals and 169 specific targets, with 19 targets to be achieved by 2020, 2 by 2025, and the rest by 2030, provide a frame work for achieving all round development in the State. This Government is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Action Plans to achieve the targets set for 2020 have already been devised and rolled out. All Departments are orienting the programmes and schemes they currently implement and wherever necessary specific programmes will be designed and launched to ensure the achievement of SDGs by 2030. Tamil Nadu stands 3rd in the SDG India Index, 2019 brought out by the NITI Aayog for the year 2019. I had launched an online monitoring system for SDGs on 7th November, 2019, for accurate and timely

reporting of the achievements of the State. With these efforts, we are confident that Tamil Nadu's ranking will improve further.

Governance

14) This Government, following in the foot-steps of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa has been strongly focused on improving the quality of governance and effectiveness of service delivery. The efforts of this Government have been recognized with Tamil Nadu securing the first rank amongst 18 biggest States in the composite ranking in the Good Governance Index released by Government of India on December 25, 2019. Tamil Nadu was also adjudged the 'Overall Best Performing State' for the second consecutive year in the 'State of the States' survey carried out by India Today in November 2019.

15) Ours is a Government that delivers on its promises. From 2011-2012 till 2019-2020 a total of 715 announcements were made in the Budget Speeches. Of these announcements, 537 have been fully implemented, while for 161 announcements, orders have been issued and are at an advanced stage of implementation. Action is being taken on the remaining 17 cases.

16) Based on the announcement made by the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa in this august House on 8th August, 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into between the Government of Tamil Nadu and Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), South Asia to institutionalize an evidence-informed based approach to policy making and to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programmes. I was present at the signing of the MoU on 19th November, 2014 along with Prof. Esther Duflo who is a founder Director of J-PAL. It is a matter of pride that the Nobel prize in Economics for 2019 has been awarded to Prof. Esther Duflo and her husband Prof. Abhijit Banerjee, co-founder and Director of J-PAL, and the Government of Tamil Nadu is very happy to be associated with J-PAL. This mutually beneficial institutional partnership has been described by J-PAL as their most comprehensive engagement and a unique model worthy of emulation elsewhere in the world. So far, J-PAL has taken up 15 studies in nine Departments, of which ten studies have been completed. The association with J-PAL will be continued and more studies taken up to enhance the quality of policy making.

Revenue Administration

17) To take Government closer to the people, an unprecedented number of 5 new Districts were formed during 2019. Since 2011, 16 new Revenue Sub Divisions and 92 new Taluks have also been formed. To enable the new Districts to function effectively, 835 new posts have been created at a recurring cost of Rs.59.73 crore. The process of identifying land for construction of Master Plan Complexes has commenced and these complexes would be constructed at a total cost of Rs.550 crore.

18) The Hon'ble Chief Minister had

announced the sanction of Social Security Pension to an additional five lakh new beneficiaries in November 2019 taking the total sanctioned strength of pensioners to 34.47 lakh. So far, 1.73 lakh new cases have been approved for sanction of pensions. The total allocation for Social Security Pension in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 is Rs.4,315.21 crore.

19) The Government have introduced an online patta transfer mechanism to ensure that people are able to obtain updated land related documents without delay. However, in cases involving sub-division, a backlog of cases has built up due to the huge volume of survey work involved. Hence, the Government have approved the creation of a pool of Licensed Surveyors. The first batch of Surveyors is already being trained. In addition, Village Administrative Officers will be retrained and empowered to take up certain survey related tasks to enable speedy disposal of patta transfer cases.

20) From 1st April, 2011 till 31st October, 2019, a total number of 24,10,107 free house site pattas have been issued to the houseless poor in the State. The Government has revamped the special scheme for regularisation of residential encroachments on poramboke lands in August 2019. Under this scheme, residential encroachments in unobjectionable porambokelands will be regularized and house site pattas will be granted. Eligible persons from out of those residing on objectionable poramboke lands will be granted alternate sites on Government land or on private land purchased for the purpose. Such eligible persons will also be provided a free house under the housing schemes implemented by the Rural Development Department in rural areas and the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in urban areas. So far, out of the 1,28,463 unobjectionable residential encroachments, house site pattas have been issued to 35,470 persons. The remaining cases will be completed by 31st August, 2020.

21) Based on my announcement in the Budget last year, the Government has drawn up detailed guidelines for the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Comprehensive Accident cum Life Insurance Scheme to be implemented in association with the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India covering all Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The compensation to the family for the loss of a bread winner will be substantially enhanced to Rs.2 lakh in cases of natural death and Rs.4 lakh in cases of accidental death, with a payment of upto Rs.2 lakh for permanent disability caused by accidents. This scheme will be launched shortly. In the Budget for 2020-2021, a provision of Rs.250 crore has been made for the scheme. The on going Accident Relief Scheme will be continued to cover those beneficiaries who are not eligible under the New Insurance Scheme. The Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam will also continue to be implemented with a provision of Rs.200.82 crore in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

Disaster Management

22) This financial year, so far, the State has fortunately escaped from any major disaster. The Government has utilized this period of lull to effectively prepare against future disasters. 4,399 vulnerable areas have been identified and interdepartmental zonal teams have been formed for immediate response. Chennai Coastal Flood Warning System (C-FLOWS) has been developed for multi-hazard early warning in the Greater Chennai Corporation areas in association with the National Centre for Coastal Research. The Government of Tamil Nadu have proposed the Comprehensive Flood Mitigation

Project for Greater Chennai to the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank at a total cost of Rs.3,000 crore as a follow on project to the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, which will be coming to a successful completion. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 a sum of Rs.1,360.11 crore is provided for Disaster Management.

23) The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a substantial enhancement of the National and State Disaster Response and Management Funds. Although the fund size for Tamil Nadu has been stepped up by almost 65 per cent from Rs.825 crore to Rs.1,360 crore, this increase is much less than the average recommended for the 18 major States and is not in keeping with the actual expenditure incurred by the State in the past. The Commission did not accept our demand that the contribution of States should be reduced to 10 per cent from the 25 per cent. A grant of Rs.100 crore has been recommended by the Commission for Chennai city to manage the risk of urban floods.

Law and Order

24) Effective maintenance of law and order is the key to rapid economic growth and social well-being. Hence, this Government ensures that the State Police force is provided with adequate manpower, equipment and infrastructure to effectively discharge its functions. The vacancies in the Police Department have been considerably brought down and currently the working strength of the Police force is 1.13 lakh. During the year 2019-2020, a total of 10,242 Police personnel have been recruited through the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board. In 2020-2021, a further 10,276 uniformed services personnel will be recruited.

25) The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS) has been successfully implemented and now the system will be further upgraded and made more citizen-friendly at a cost of Rs.54.84 crore. The Cyber Crime Wing is being strengthened at a cost of Rs.28.97 crore, to protect innocent persons from cyber crime and to enhance cyber safety. A total amount of Rs.8,876.57 crore has been allocated for the Police Department including Rs.431 crore for construction of buildings and Rs.100 crore for modernization of the Police force.

Fire and Rescue Services

26) Recognising the need and importance for rapid response to fire and other disasters, the Government has opened new fire and rescue stations wherever required, bringing the total number of fire and rescue stations in the State to 346. In 2019-2020, 16 new fire and rescue stations at a cost of Rs.18.22 crore have been sanctioned. Modern fire fighting and rescue equipment including a 104 metre sky lift to fight fire and rescue persons in high rise buildings has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.13.67 crore.The Government will send proposals to access the earmarked allocation

of Rs.1,000 crore recommended by the 15th Finance Commission in the National Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund for expanding and modernizing fire services. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, Rs.405.68 crore has been allocated for Fire and Rescue Services Department.

Prisons

27) Prisons in Tamil Nadu have been recognized as humane and reformative in their approach. As a reformative initiative, the share of the prisoners from the wages earned in prison industries will be increased from 30 per cent to 50 per cent by reducing the deduction for their upkeep from 50 per cent to 30 per cent. In a unique initiative, five petrol outlets have been set up in the outer premises of prisons at Puzhal, Vellore, Coimbatore, Palayamkottaiand at the Borstal School at Pudukottai. Six more outlets will be set up in 2020-2021. A sum of Rs.392.74 crore has been allocated for the Prison Department in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

Road Safety

28) One of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2020 is halving the number of fatalities and injuries in road accidents. Tamil Nadu has received an award from the Government of India for best performance in road safety in 2018. The number of fatalities has declined by 38.87 per cent in 2019 compared to 2016. The Tamil Nadu Accident and Emergency Care Initiative (TAEI) is being implemented since June 2017. After the implementation of TAEI at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai, death due to trauma has come down from 8.3 per cent to 2.7 per cent. At present, 80 strategically located Government Medical Institutions have been designated as TAEI centres. In order to further improve Tamil Nadu's performance in road safety and to reduce avoidable loss of life, injury and damage to property, the Government will launch the Tamil Nadu Road Safety Mission, to co-ordinate the efforts of different Departments and agencies to achieve the goal of'Road accident-free Tamil Nadu'. Awareness programmes, driver education, law enforcement, engineering solutions to reduce accidents and efforts to save lives post accidents will be taken up in a co-ordinated manner. Funds and schemes from different Departments including Highways, Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Police, Transport and Health will be converged with the revamped Tamil Nadu Road Safety Fund and the total annual allocation for road safety stepped up to Rs.500 crore. A separate dedicated Road Safety wing will be created in the Highways Department to ensure that road safety elements are incorporated within the design of roads. Road safety cells will be created in Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore Corporations.

Administration of Justice

29) This Government accords the highest priority to the effective Administration of Justice. In the period from 2011 to 2019, the Government has constituted 494 new courts

including special courts. 16 special courts to try cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) have been established. A total sum of Rs.1,317.04 crore has been sanctioned towards the construction of court buildings and other infrastructure facilities including accommodation for judges. In the Budget Estimate 2020-2021 a total amount of Rs.1,403.17 crore has been provided for Administration of Justice. This includes a sum of Rs.112.92 crore provided for the construction of new buildings.

Infrastructure

30) The late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa had launched the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 document. The Vision Document has provided Tamil Nadu with a ready pipeline of projects out of which the Government of Tamil Nadu could promptly indicate to the Government of India, the projects that could be included in the recently announced National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). Totally 179 projects at a total cost of Rs.8.58 lakh crore relating to Tamil Nadu have been included in the NIP. We expect that the Government of India would support us for the completion of the identified projects.

31) The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board has sanctioned Rs.278.11 crore from the Project Preparation Fund so far for preparation of Detailed Project Reports. This has enabled the State to speedily pose projects to various multilateral and domestic financial institutions and to the Government of India for financing. The enhanced state of readiness of Tamil Nadu to implement large infrastructure projects has been appreciated by financing agencies. Rs.50 crore has been provided for the Project Preparation Fund in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

32) We are also in a position to leverage investments from private financial institutions in infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Limited is managing the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund, the Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund - Tier-II and the Tamil Nadu Biotechnology Venture Capital Fund. TNIFMC has had break throughs in raising funds from investors including pension funds and sovereign funds in the Middle East, Japan and Europe. 8 major projects are ready for investment. During 2020-2021, TNIFMC plans to deploy Rs.2,000 crore.

Agriculture

33) Agriculture continues to be the primary source of livelihood for 50 percent of the population that lives in rural areas in Tamil Nadu. The key to ending deprivation and enhancing the quality of life for the rural population lies in adopting a farmer-centered approach. Investment in the Agriculture sector is also vital to preserving food security. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's recent momentous announcement to declare the Cauvery Delta Region as a Protected Special Agricultural Zone demonstrates this Government's commitment to develop agriculture.

34) The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) which combines judicious use of water will be expanded to 27.18 lakh acres in 2020-2021. Direct sowing of paddy will be expanded to 11.1 lakh acre in the Districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai. High yielding varieties of paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and cotton will be promoted in association with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

35) To sustain sugar cane production, new varieties will be promoted along with

Government has released the 'Policy for Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations' as was announced in the Budget speech of 2019-2020. The scheme will be implemented in 2020-2021 with a budget allocation of Rs.100.56 crore.

37) Under the Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture, 25 lakh acres of dry lands were covered from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. This scheme will be relaunched as the 'Tamil Nadu Mission for Sustainable Dry Land Development' on a cluster based approach to cover 10,000 clusters of 250 acre each, in a period of three years. During 2020-2021, 7.5 lakh acre in 3,000 clusters will be covered with an outlay of Rs.180 crore.

Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative techniques at a cost of Rs.12 crore in 2020-2021 in 74,132 acre. A special additional assistance of Rs.68.35 crore was sanctioned in 2019-2020 to enable sugarcane farmers to adopt micro irrigation. This scheme will be continued in 2020-2021 with an additional subsidy of Rs.75 crore. Transitional Production Incentive for sugarcane growers to cover the difference between the earlier State Advised Price and the Fair and Remunerative Price announced by the Government of India will be continued for the crushing season 2019-2020 as well. A sum of Rs.165 crore is provided in the Budget Estimate 2020-2021 for this purpose. The Government will also pay a transport subsidy of upto Rs.100 per MT for the crushing season 2019-2020 at a cost of Rs.110 crore. These measures will help the revival of the sugar sector in Tamil Nadu.

36) The very successful Integrated Farming System has now been extended to 28 Districts and will be implemented during 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs.50 crore. The initiative of Collective Farming by federating small and marginal farmers into Farmers' Interest Groups and Farmer Producer Groups benefitted 6 lakh farmers till last year. 75 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have already been formed and 45 FPOs are currently under formation. The

38) Global warming has caused more frequent outbreaks of pest attacks. In 2019-2020, the incidence of Fall Armyworm pest was effectively controlled in Tamil Nadu with the special efforts taken by the Government at a cost of Rs.47.66 crore. A special programme with an outlay of Rs.5 crore for Research and Development on a permanent solution for the Fall Armyworm and Rs.20 crore for pest management will be undertaken in 2020-2021. In the current rabi season, gall midge and brown plant hopper pest incidences in paddy and rugosespiralling whitefly incidence in coconut have been detected and continuous action is being taken to control the spread of the attacks and to compensate the farmers, wherever required.

39) Farmers have been requesting the strengthening of the extension activities of the Agriculture Department, particularly in the Delta Districts. The Government will launch

the 'Uzhavar-Aluvalar Thodarbu Thittam' to ensure closer interface of Department officials with farmers with technical advice on farming operations, through people deployment of available staff. In addition to in person field level interaction, information and communication technology will also be leveraged.

40) Tamil Nadu has been extremely successful in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and a sum of Rs.7,618 crore has been sanctioned for 36.44 lakh farmers in the State, so far as compensation claims under the scheme. PMFBY will continue to be implemented in Tamil Nadu during 2020-2021 with an enhanced allocation of Rs.724.14 crore as State Government's share of the premium.

41) Tamil Nadu is the leading State in the implementation of Micro Irrigation in the past two years. The total area covered under micro irrigation in Tamil Nadu was 3.51 lakh acre in 2018-2019 with an expenditure of Rs.700.69 crore and in 2019-2020, 5.63 lakh acre are being covered, with an outlay of Rs.1,370.24 crore. I am happy to announce that in 2020-2021, 7.41 lakh acre will be covered under micro irrigation with an enhanced outlay of Rs.1,844.97 crore.

42) Encouraging remunerative horticulture crops is an effective way of boosting farmers' income while catering to changing nutritional requirements. The Government will establish special centres for cashew in Cuddalore, onion in Perambalur, moringa in Theni, turmeric in Erode, acid lime in Tenkasi and chillies in Thoothukudi at a total outlay of Rs.18 crore. During 2020-2021, 325 MT of vegetable seeds will be distributed to farmers to expand the area under horticulture crops.

43) Farm mechanization is a thrust area for the Government to mitigate labour shortage and eliminate drudgery in farming operations. At present, 1,665 Block Level Custom Hiring Centres, 997 Village Level Custom Hiring Centres and 15 Sugarcane Custom Hiring Centres are functioning in the State. During 2020-2021, besides distribution of machinery to individual farmers, 100 Block Level and 250 Village Level Custom Hiring Centres will be established with a total outlay of Rs.200 crore.

44) Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme 17,500 stand-alone solar pumps of upto 10 HP capacity have been sanctioned for Tamil Nadu by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. The stand-alone solar pumps will be installed by the Agricultural Engineering Department with 70 per cent subsidy giving priority to those farmers who are in the waiting list for an agricultural power connection.

The total cost of the scheme is Rs.472.85 crore and a provision of Rs.208.74 crore towards the Government of Tamil Nadu's share of the subsidy is made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

45) The Government has approved the establishment of a Mega Food Park in an area of 53.36 acres at Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs.77.94 crore. 8 more Agro Processing Clusters at a cost of Rs.218 crore are proposed to be established in Theni, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Madurai Districts during 2020-2021 under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). It is proposed to establish Food Parks in Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Tenkasi Districts at a cost of Rs.70 crore. Integrated

Farmers Market Complexes will be established in 5 locations in Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Trichy and Tirunelveli Districts on a pilot basis at a total cost of Rs.50 crore with funding from the NABARD – Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure Fund. These complexes will serve as common platforms including input shops, service centres and sales outlets, and will benefit both farmers and consumers.

46) The total allocation for the Agriculture Department is Rs.11,894.48 crore in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

Co-operation

47) Tamil Nadu's rural economy is effectively supported by the net work of co-operative institutions. In 2019-2020, as against the target of Rs.10,000 crore for crop loans, so far Rs.7,595.59 crore has been disbursed to 10.6 lakh farmers. Co-operatives have been intervening as intermediaries to sell fruits, vegetables and other farm produce in urban markets to ensure that farmers receive remunerative prices and consumers are able to buy at affordable prices. During 2020-2021 a total crop loan of Rs.11,000 crore will be disbursed by the co-operative institutions. A provision of Rs.200 crore has been made in the Budget to provide full interest waiver for prompt repayment of loans.

Public Distribution System

48)TamilNaduissuccessfullyimplementing the Universal Public Distribution System in compliance with the National Food Security Act, 2013. The fully computerized Public Distribution System is being further upgraded at a cost of Rs.38.51crore. Family card holders with a smart ration card will soon be enabled to draw their entitlements of commodities from any fair price shop in the State. So far, 585 fair price shops across the State have been upgraded as Amma Mini Co-operative Super Markets and more than 300 products are being sold at a discount of 5 per cent for the benefit of the common people. Under the Special Public Distribution System, the supply of tur dal and edible oil at subsidized rates is being continued in the financial year 2020-2021 as well. Pongal Gift hampers including Rs.1,000 per family has been distributed in January 2020 at a total cost of Rs.2,363.13 crore. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a total amount of Rs.6,500 crore has been provided for food subsidy and Rs.400 crore as subsidy for Co-operatives implementing the Public Distribution System.

Animal Husbandry & Dairying

49) In a significant structural shift, in 2016-2017 the livestock sector surpassed the share of the agriculture sector in the Gross State Value Added at constant prices and has maintained the position in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. In 2018-2019 the livestock sector accounted for 5.83 per cent of the State Gross Value Added and the fisheries sector for a further 0.47 per cent. This reflects the success of the flagship initiatives launched by late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa for the free distribution of milch animals, goat, sheep and poultry units and the fodder development programme. This also demonstrates that growing incomes are causing changes in food preferences to protein rich foods like milk, milk products, eggs and meat.

50) Efforts of this Government have been to strengthen Animal Husbandry and veterinary infrastructure. Since 2011-2012, 1,060 sub-centres have been upgraded as veterinary dispensaries, 20 new veterinary dispensaries have been opened, 10 veterinarydispensaries have

been upgraded as veterinary hospitals, 6 clinician centres and 2 veterinary hospitals upgraded as veterinary polyclinics and 400 new sub-centres have been established. Veterinary services will be provided at the door steps of farmers through an outreach programme utilising mobile veterinary units and Amma Ambulance Services. Since 2011-2012, 2,037 new veterinary institution buildings have been constructed at a total cost of Rs.614.57 crore and 1,460 buildings have been renovated at a cost of Rs.87.20 crore.

51) To further strengthen the veterinary sector, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently laid the foundation stone for the establishment of the Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences at Thalaivasal in Salem District. There would be a special emphasis in the Institute on conserving native breeds of cattle. The Institute and other attendant facilities in the Livestock Park will be created at a total cost of Rs.1,020 crore with funds drawn from various Government of India and State Governments programmes and assistance from NABARD. A provision of Rs.199.52crore has been made in Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for this purpose.

52) In the Dairy Development Sector, in order to increase milk procurement, various works costing Rs.917.73 crore have been taken up since 2011-12. As a result, AAVIN is now able to handle an increased average milk procurement of 33.96 lakh litres per day in 2019-2020 as against 20.67 lakh litres in 2010-2011. To strengthen the network of AAVIN, 6 more milk unions have been formed, which has benefitted both farmers and consumers. We are expecting approval from Government of India, for 4 projects costing Rs.304 croreunder the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD.

Fisheries

53) This Government has made unprecedented investments in the fisheries sector to upgrade fishing infrastructure and to support the welfare of fishermen. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.298.12 crore has been provided for the fishing ban period relief assistance, special allowance and the savings cum relief scheme for marine fisher folk. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed transponders as a means of communication and to track deep sea fishermen. 507 transponders have already been fitted on mechanized fishing boats in Tamil Nadu. Now transponders will be fitted on 4,997 more mechanized fishing boats at a cost of Rs.18 crore. A special scheme for diversification of 2,000 trawlers from the Palk Bay area at a cost of Rs.1,600 crore is currently under implementation. In the first phase, 500 deep sea tuna long liners cum gillnetter boats are under construction.

54) Fishing harbours will be constructed at Azhagankuppam in Villupuram District and Alamparaikuppam in Chengalpattu District at a cost of Rs.235 crore, and at Arcottuthurai in Nagapattinam District at a cost of Rs.150 crore. Groynes and shore protection at a cost of Rs.30 crore in Thoothukudi District will be constructed this year.

55) The Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 provide Rs.1,229.85 crore for the Fisheries sector.

Water Resources

56) Recognizing the critical importance of conservation of surface water for a water scarce State like Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission as a people's movement. The Mission aims atrain water harvesting, conservation of water bodies, recharge of ground water, improved efficiency in water usage for agriculture, recycling used water and the eco-restoration of water ways, water bodies and wet lands.

57) The major people led initiative under the Mission is the hugely popular Kudimaramathu Scheme under which so far 4,865 works have been sanctioned for the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs.930.25 crore, out of which 4,059 works have been completed and the balance will be completed shortly. In the Revised Estimates 2019-2020, a sum of Rs.510.52 crore has been provided for rehabilitating irrigation tanks. During 2020-2021, 1,364 irrigation works by the Public Works Department at estimated cost of Rs.500 crore will be taken up. Rs.300 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the Kudimaramathu Scheme. 5,000 Panchayat Union minor irrigation tanks and 25,000 ponds and ooranies in Village panchayats are being rejuvenated. For these works, the Government provided a special allocation of Rs.500 crore in 2019-2020 and converged Rs.750 crore under MGNREGS. So far, out of 30,000 works, 21,444 works have been completed. In 2020-2021, rural and urban local bodies will take up deepening and improvement of the remaining ponds and ooranies in villages and

rehabilitation of water bodies including temple tanks in towns and cities, by dovetailing scheme funds. This will increase ground water recharge and reduce the number of over-exploited and dark blocks in the State.

58) In 2019-2020, 281 works at a total cost of Rs.60.95 crore were sanctioned for desilting of canals in the Cauvery Delta. Due to the effective implementation of this work, irrigation water reached the tail end areas of the Cauvery delta without any hindrance. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.67.25 crore is provided for taking up the 392 desilting works in the Cauvery delta which will be completed before the next monsoon season. As part of the programme of Extension, Renovation and Modernisation of Irrigation Infrastructure in the Cauvery Basin, works on the Grand Anicut Canal system are to be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.2,298 crore with assistance from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). In the Budget for 2020-2021, Rs.300 crore is provided for this project. The implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Cauvery delta at a cost of Rs.1,560 crore with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) is progressing in full swing. A provision of Rs.105.20 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for this project. Phase-II of the project at a cost of Rs.1,995 crore to cover the balance area in the Vennar sub-basin is currently being appraised by the Asian Development Bank.

59) The Government has accorded sanction for the Kattalai High Level Canal at an estimated cost of Rs.335.50 crore, Noyyal Sub-Basin at an estimated cost of Rs.230 crore and Rajavaikkal system at an estimated cost of Rs.184 crore. The Government has also sanctioned the Sarabanga lift irrigation project to divert flood surplus water from the Mettur Dam to dry tanks in Salem District at an estimated cost of Rs.565 crore. A sum of Rs.350 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the implementation of these schemes. A barrage across the Kollidam river between Adhanur and Kumaramangalam villages at a cost of Rs.463.25 crore and a new regulator down stream of Mukkombu in Trichy District at a cost of Rs.387.60 crore are under construction.

60) The Preliminary Project Report for the NadanthaiVaazhi Cauvery scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.11,250 crore has been submitted to the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources for in-principle approval. The task of preparing the Detailed Project Report has been undertaken and a provision of Rs.15 crore has been made in the Budget 2020-2021 for the purpose.

61) The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase-I is under implementation with a revised project cost of Rs.803.49 crore to cover 89 dams and catchment area treatment work in two basins. Works are nearing completion and the project has been extended upto June 2020. Under DRIP Phase-II, 37 dams will be covered at a total project cost of Rs.610.26 crore. A provision of Rs.220.12crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the two Phases of DRIP. The Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.2,962 crore. Rehabilitation of 1,325 tanks, 107 anicuts and construction of 45 artificial recharge wells in 18 sub-basins and rehabilitation of 57 flood affected tanks and 2 main irrigation channels at a total cost of Rs.787.19 crore have been taken up in Phase-I and will be completed by July 2020. In Phase-II, rehabilitation of 906 tanks and 183 anicuts and construction of 37 artificial recharge wells in 16 sub-basins at a cost of Rs.649.55 crore are to be taken up during 2020-2021. A provision of Rs.583.40 crore has been made for TNIAMP in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

62) The Government has obtained the environmental clearance for the Athikadavu-Avinashi irrigation scheme. A sum of Rs.500 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for this project. The Cauvery Gundar Link project at an estimated cost of Rs.7,677crore has already been announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. In the first phase, the link canal from Cauvery to South Vellar River is to be taken up. A sum of Rs.700 crore has been provided in the Budget for 2020-2021 to carry out land acquisition and preliminary works for the project.

63) From 2014-15 to 2019-2020, 307 works to create new tanks, construction of new anicuts and new supply channels under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD at an estimated cost of Rs.2,241.19 crore have been taken up for implementation, out of which 261 works have been completed and the balance are in progress. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 a sum of Rs.655.38 crore has been provided for the implementation of works taken up with NABARD assistance. The allocation in Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for irrigation has been substantially stepped up to Rs.6,991.89 crore.

Environment and Forests

64) Preservation of forests and conservation of wild life is the foremost duty of the Government. As per the India's State of Forests Report, 2019, the forest cover in Tamil Nadu has increased by 83.02 sq. km compared to the State of Forests Report, 2017. The State Government's efforts in protecting tigers and managing their habitat in the Western and Eastern Ghats has enabled the tiger population to increase from 229 in 2014 to 264 in 2018.

65) The Phase-II of the Tamil Nadu Bio Diversity Conservation and Greening Project will be launched during 2020-2021 with a total outlay of Rs.920.56 crore. A comprehensive scheme for restoration of degraded forests with community participation will be posed to NABARD assistance at a total cost of Rs.2,029.13 crore. The State Action Plan on Climate Change 2.0 has been prepared covering seven sectors including sustainable agriculture, water resources, coastal area management, forest and bio-diversity, sustainable habitat, energy efficiency, renewable energy and solar mission and knowledge management. This Action Plan will form the basis for obtaining finance from different sources to implement the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda in Tamil Nadu.

66) The work on eco-restoration of the Cooum river is nearing completion and of the Adyar river is in progress. In the next stage, the Government will take up the eco restoration of the Buckingham Canal and its drains and all the drains of the Cooum and Adyar at a total cost of Rs.5,439.76 crore. In the first phase the Government has already sanctioned an amount of Rs.1,001 crore for sewage mitigation schemes. The over all outlay includes a sum of Rs.3,339.90 crore for construction of dwelling

units by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The remaining funds are to be incurred on channel improvements, solid waste removal and urban water front development. The eco-restoration of Chitlappakkam Lake in Chengalpattu District will be carried out at a cost of Rs.25 crore through the Public Works Department. Eco-restoration work of Odathurai Pond in Erode will also be taken at a cost of Rs.3.2 crore.

67) The late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa laid the foundation stone for the Advanced Institute for the Wildlife Conservation and the Institute was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Government will sanction a grant of Rs.2.5 crore to the Institute including a recurring grant of Rs.1.35 crore.

Devolution of Funds to Local Bodies

68) During the year 2019-2020, a provision of Rs.4,558.16 crore was made for urban local bodies and Rs.5,654.25 crore for rural local bodies under the State Finance Commission devolution. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.5,306.95 crore is provided as devolution to urban local bodies and Rs.6,754.30 crore for rural local bodies.

69) Tamil Nadu is yet to receive arrears of Rs.4,345.57 crore due as basic grants to local bodies for 2019-2020 and Rs.2,029.22

crore due as performance grant from 2017-2018, based on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. The State Government has repeatedly urged the Government of India to release the arrears at the earliest. With the tremendous follow up of the State Government, the basic grants due for the year 2018-2019 have been obtained.

70) Local body grants have not been significantly increased by the 15th Finance Commission. Tamil Nadu has been allocated Rs.3,607 crore for rural local bodies and Rs.1,737 crore for urban local bodies, totalling Rs.5,344 crore for 2020-2021, against the aggregate of Rs.5,178.52 crore recommended by the 14th Finance Commission. The grants recommended for urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu have been reduced by 31 per cent in 2020-2021 compared to 2019-2020, because of the faulty methodology adopted by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. We will urge the Fifteenth Finance Commission to correct this anomaly in their final report.

71) Within the grants for Urban Local Bodies, a separate allocation has been recommended for 50 "million-plus urban agglomerations" and in Tamil Nadu, a total grant of Rs.556 crore is allocated to Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended grants to all the three tiers of rural local bodies, unlike the 14th Finance Commission which recommended grants only to village panchayats. The proportion of untied grants has been reduced and we will urge the Government of India to workout transparent modalities for timely release of grants to the States.

72) In both urban and rural habitations, there are some very essential but small works which need to be taken up, to fulfill the requirements for basic infrastructure. Hence,

in 2020-2021, the Government will launch a one-time special scheme for taking up essential basic infrastructure works with a total allocation of Rs.500 crore. These works will be taken up and completed expeditiously under the direct oversight of a State High Level Committee.

Rural Development

73) Creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities and provision of basic infrastructure and services in rural areas are the main objectives of the rural development programmes implemented by this Government. The presence of newly elected rural local body functionaries is a good opportunity to focus on the effective delivery of basic services to rural habitations. Accordingly, the Government will launch a new five year 'Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme' (முதலமைச்சரின் கிராம தன்னிறைவு வளர்ச்சி திட்டம்), which will focus on achieving self-sufficiency in provision of water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, food security, provision of access roads, burial grounds, street lights, housing, economic livelihood, and environment protection at the habitation level, by the convergence of ongoing programmes. The achievement of Sustainable Development

Goals will be localized through integration with Village Panchayat Development Plans. The newly elected representatives, local officials and community organizers will be trained including in the Participatory Tracking (P-Tracking) approach to optimize utilization of scheme funds towards self-sufficiency. Gap filling funds would be provided on a challenge-cum-incentive mechanism. The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and the Planning & Development Departments will work out the modalities for the implementation of the scheme. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.100 crore is allocated towards the gap filling challenge fund.

74) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana, 4,41,637 houses have been constructed at a total cost of Rs.4,875.73 crore from the year 2011-2012 to 2015-2016. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), 5,27,552 houses have been taken up at a total cost of Rs.8,968.39 crore. Under the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme, from the year 2011-2012, 3,80,000 houses have been taken up at the total cost of Rs.7,620 crore.From the year 2020-2021 onwards, the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) and the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme will be implemented in conjunction with the special scheme for regularization of encroachments in unobjectionable porambokes, so that eligible persons who are granted pattas, are financed for the construction of their own house. In the year 2020-2021, 2 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) and 20,000 houses under Chief Minister's Green House Scheme will be taken up for construction, including 8,803 houses for tribal families to ensure 100 per cent coverage. The amount of Rs.30,000 per house intended for installation of a solar panel under the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme will be merged with the construction cost of the house and the overall cost of construction per house will now be Rs.2.1 lakh. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.3,099.07 crore has been provided for the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) and Rs.500 crore has been provided for Chief Minister's Green House Scheme.

75) Tamil Nadu continues to be a leading State in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Tamil Nadu bagged 8 National Awards for the implementation of MGNREGA during 2018-2019. During 2019-2020, so far 20.74 crore person days of employment has been generated at a total wage cost of Rs.3,678.06 crore. In the Budget for 2020-2021, Rs.375 crore is provided towards the State's share of MGNREGS.

76) The Tamil Nadu Rural Road Improvement Scheme to upgrade and maintain Panchayat Union and Village Panchayat roads is being implemented at a cost of Rs.1,200 crore during 2019-2020. In 2020-2021 this scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,400 crore. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana Phase III, Tamil Nadu has been allocated an over all target of 7,375 km of roads, which will connect rural agricultural markets, high schools and higher secondary schools and hospitals.

77) In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a total amount of Rs.23,161.54 crore has been provided for the Rural Development sector.

Livelihood Missions

78) Tamil Nadu is currently implementing livelihood missions in both rural and urban areas. The Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission is being implemented in all 388 blocks in the State. So far, 83,257 Self Help Groups have been formed under the TNSRLM in the State and a provision of Rs.450.65 crore has

been made in the Budget for the Mission. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) a total of 1,08,416 youths have been trained in the period since 2014-2015. 28,063 persons will be trained in 2020-2021 and the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 include a provision of Rs.299.60 crore for this scheme. The World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project is being implemented in 120 blocks in 26 Districts at a total cost of Rs.918.20 crore, focusing on promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas especially amongst women, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and differently abled persons. A sum of Rs.163.35 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for implementation of the project.

79) The National Urban Livelihood Mission is being implemented in all urban areas of Tamil Nadu with components including social mobilization and institutional development, employment through skill training and placement, self-employment, shelter for the urban homeless and support to urban street vendors. The resources of the NULM are being supplemented with an additional allocation under the Tamil Nadu State Urban Livelihood Mission. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.200 crore has been provided for the National Urban Livelihood Mission and Rs.8 crore for the Tamil Nadu State Urban Livelihood Mission.

Municipal Administration

80) Cities are the engines of growth. Hence, strengthening urban infrastructure and provision of basic services in urban areas is critical to make cities more livable. To meet the large requirement of funds for the provision of water supply, sewage, storm water drains, roads and other infrastructure in Corporations and Municipalities, the Government accesses funds from multiple sources. The opportunity to leverage the steady sources of revenue for urban local bodies including Finance Commission devolution and grants will be utilized to raise municipal bonds for financing infrastructure development.

81) Under the Smart Cities Mission, 413 projects in 11 Corporations at a cost of about Rs.11,000 crore have been taken up so far. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), 445 projects in 28 urban local bodies at a cost of Rs.11,441.32 crore have been taken up. A sum of Rs.1,650 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for the Smart Cities Mission and Rs.1,450 crore for AMRUT.

82) Under the World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Programme implemented at a cost of Rs.3,831 crore, Erode, Vellore and Hosur have been selected as model cities to demonstrate effective models of urban management. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.532.54crore has been provided for this project. The Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program meat a total cost of Rs.8,155.81 crore with assistance from the Asian Development Bank will support the State in developing urban and environmental infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors. Underground sewerage and water supply schemes in Madurai, Coimbatore, Vellore, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Ambur and Rajapalayam are funded under the project and the total provision in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 is Rs.406 crore.

83) The Greater Chennai Corporation has prepared a project for providing Integrated Storm Water Drain Network of 765 km in the extended areas in the Kosasthalaiyar river basin at a total cost of Rs.2,518 crore, and posed it to the Asian Development Bank for assistance.

In anticipation of early approval,a provision of Rs.350crore has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021.

84) An Integrated Urban Development Project for providing urban services and street improvements has been prepared and posed to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for a loan assistance of USD 500 million. This project will provide sustainable transport infrastructure in the 10 Corporations other than Chennai selected under the Smart Cities Mission to enhance road safety and improve mobility including through non motorized transport.

85) In the Budget Estimates, Rs.750 crore has been provided for the Integrated Urban Development Mission (IUDM) and Rs.500 crore for Chennai Mega City Development Mission (CMCDM) and Rs.18,540.12 crore has been allocated for the Municipal Administration and Water Supply sector.

Amma Unavagam

86) The late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated Amma Unavagams on 19th February, 2013 to provide healthy and hygienic food to the weaker sections of society at affordable cost. This path breaking initiative won international accolades and is replicated by a number of other States in India. To ensure that this flagship programme reaches out to those who need it the most and is funded on a sustainable basis with a reduced financial burden on urban local bodies, the Government has decided to form a 'not-for-profit' Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to finance and manage the Amma Unavagam programme. The focus on construction workers who are the largest clientele of AmmaUnavagams, will be sharpened by establishing mobile units to transport food to work sites. The SPV will raise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from companies and other donations. The Government will continue to provide subsidized food grains. The Government will also provide grants to the SPV to cover the shortfall between the expenditure incurred and the revenue, contributions and donations received. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a provision of Rs.100 crore has been made for this purpose.

Drinking Water Supply

87) The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide adequate quantity and quality of water supply to all rural houses through house hold tap connections by the end of 2024. The Government of Tamil Nadu will formulate an action plan for all rural habitations under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board is maintaining 556 Combined Water Supply Schemes. Through a series of measures to improve capacity utilization, TWAD board pumped a record 2,000 million litres of water per day in December 2019, for the first time in its history. 8 new Combined Water Supply Schemes will be taken up at a total cost of Rs.616.68 crore with NABARD-RIDF assistance. During 2019-2020, 10 water supply schemes covering 195 rural habitations in Salem, Theni, Dindigul, Erode, Villupuram and Tirupathur Districts benefitting a total population of 3.11 lakh have been completed at

an estimated cost of Rs.137.03 crore. 56 water supply schemes covering 8 Corporations and 22 Municipalities, 41 Town Panchayats and 5,504 Rural habitations in 19 Districts are at various stages of implementation at a total estimated cost of Rs.7,134.03 crore and will be completed early.

88) The Government has approved the construction of two 60 MLD desalination plants in Ramanathapuram and Villupuram Districts at a total cost of Rs.3,041crore and the project has been posed to AIIB for financing and we expect to secure early approval. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has taken up the construction of a 150 MLD Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Nemmeli with KfW assistance at a cost of Rs.1,259.38 crore. In the Budget for 2020-2021, Rs.500 crore has been provided for this project. Government has accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of 400 MLD SWRO plant at Perur near Chennai at a total project cost of Rs.6,078.40 crore with funding assistance of Rs.4,267.70 crore from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The consultant for detailed design has been appointed and works on the project will commence shortly. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, Rs.156.15crore has been provided for this purpose.

89) One of the objectives of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission is to promote recycling of water. The Hon'ble Chief Minister released the 'Treated Waste Water Reuse Policy' for Tamil Nadu on November, 2019 with the aim of reducing dependence on fresh water and to prevent pollution of water bodies. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated two 45 MLD capacity Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plants – one at Koyambedu at a cost of Rs.486.21 crore and one more at Kodungaiyur at a cost of Rs.348 crore. In addition, 2 Tertiary Treatment Ultra Filtration (TTUF) projects at Perungudi and Nesapakkam of 10 MLD each are currently under implementation.

90) There is an urgent necessity to improve the existing water supply system within the city of Chennai to minimize water losses.The underground sewerage system needs to be extended to 14 more added areas of Chennai City. Tertiary treatment capacity is to be established to treat 260 MLD of secondary treated sewage. To fulfill these requirements, CMWSSB has prepared the Climate Resilient Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project at a total cost of Rs.4,500 crore and posed it to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for financing.

Housing and Urban Development

91) The Government is committed to achieve the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa's vision of slum free cities in Tamil Nadu. Since 2014-2015, the approval of Government of India has been obtained to construct 5,53,244 houses at a total cost of Rs.16,774.77 crore under the Beneficiary Led Construction component of the Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana-Urban (PMAY-U). In addition, sanction has been obtained to construct 1,32,900 multi-storey

tenements at a total cost of Rs.13,677.02 crore under the Affordable Housing in Partnership component. During 2020-2021, construction of 1,12,876 houses and 65,290 tenements will be taken up. A sum of Rs.3,700 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, for the PMAY Urban programme.

92) I am very happy to inform this august House that following my meetings with senior officials in the World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC in November, 2019, World Bank financing for the Housing sector has reached an advanced stage of approval.The project is to be implemented under two separate financing instruments.The Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme will support policy reforms to develop efficient and inclusive housing markets and to increase the supply of affordable housing with a total Development Policy Financing loan of 450 million US dollars. In the first tranche 200 million US dollars as financial support will be provided. Under Investment Project Financing, the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project with an outlay of Rs.504 crore and World Bank financing of US Dollars 50 Million will be taken up. A sum of Rs.169.20crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for this project.

93) The Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Housing for the Urban Poor Project at a total cost of Rs.5,000 crore (USD 715 million) with an Asian Development Bank loan of USD 500 million, will be implemented from 2020-2021 with components for affordable housing for vulnerable communities living along waterways and water bodies and for the urban poor and migrant workers and regional planning. The first phase of the project for USD215 million is expected to be approved shortly. The first six sub projects in Tirunelveli,

Karaikudi, Thanjavur, Pallipalayam, Dindigul and Theni at a cost of Rs.431 crore will be taken up immediately. A sum of Rs.171 crore has been provided for this project in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

94) The two tier Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund is India's first impact investment fund for funding urban affordable housing projects. This fund is now fully operational with the notification of the Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund Rules, 2020 which enables shelter charges levied on construction projects to be credited to the Fund. Tier-II of the Shelter Fund is a Category-I Social Alternative Investment Fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have committed Rs.245crore (USD35 million) and Rs.700 crore (USD 100 million) respectivelyto support investment in affordable housing which will be routed through the Fund. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 Rs.205.20crore is provided for this purpose.

95) Land is required for many public and infrastructure projects. Often, the land owners fail to realize the benefits of appreciation of land value after infrastructure is developed at the location. The Government through suitable amendments to the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, have initiated two schemes – the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Scheme and Land Pooling Area Development Scheme, which envisage a fair

exchange mechanism so that land owners are able to retain certain rights and thereby benefit from the enhancement in land value due to the new infrastructure being created. These initiatives will enable speedier assembly of land for infrastructure projects, while making land owners true partners in development.

Chennai City Partnership

96) The Government will launch the 'Chennai City Partnership', as a unique model of development co-operation with the World Bank to ensure the continued sustainable growth of metropolitan Chennai. This project comprises three major pillars - urban mobility,water resilience and urban governance and finance. The urban mobility pillar focuses on providing integrated mobility solutions by better synchronizing the investments and strategies of various urban transport agencies in the city including Chennai Metro Rail, Southern Railway, Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Greater Chennai Corporation, and the State Highways Department. The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) will be revamped and empowered as an institutional mechanism for inter agency co-ordination and resource allocation. In the water resilience pillar, an integrated water management programme to tackle recurrent floods and water scarcity and to enhance the city's resilience would be taken up. Providing 24x7 pressurized drinking water in a phased manner, expanding the collection, treatment and reuse of waste water, making Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board a world class utility and making high priority investments to mitigate floods will be the main components. The urban governance and finance pillar will have Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority as the major stake-holder agencies. The World Bank assistance indicated for the Chennai City Partnership is USD One Billion. Approvals will be obtained for the specific programmes and projects during the year 2020-2021.

Highways

97) The Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP) is a flagship scheme to upgrade road infrastructure in the State. In 2019-2020, the Government has sanctioned schemes worth Rs.4,521.48 crore for widening, strengthening and upgrading 3,256 km, improving the riding quality on 3,597 km and construction of 56 bridges and 1,718 other works. The budget provision for CRIDP is being substantially enhanced to Rs.5,500 crore in 2020-2021.

98) So far, Performance Based Maintenance Contracts have been taken up in Pollachi, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram, Thiruvallur, Virudhunagar and Palani Highways Divisions. Thanjavur division is also being taken up under PBMC this year. The Government now proposes to take up Gobichettipalayam division under the PBMC model in 2020-2021.

99) The fourth phase of upgrading Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads to standards of Other District Roads (ODR) will be taken up during 2020-2021. So far, a

total length of 4,861.70 km of road at a cost of Rs.2,772.48 crore has been completed. In 2020-2021, 1,500 km at a cost of Rs.1,050crore will be taken up and a sum of Rs.1,050 crore is allocated in the Budget Estimates for this purpose.

100) Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project Phase-II with assistance from the World Bank is under implementation and a sum of Rs.615.54 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the project. Under the Chennai Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor project, loan assistance of the Asian Development Bank is being obtained to strengthen 655 km of Road at a total cost of Rs.6,448 crore. Land acquisition is in progress for the widening of roads and for bypasses. A sum of Rs.1,000 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for this project.

101) For the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project to be executed at a total cost of Rs.12,301 crore, land acquisition at a cost of Rs.951 crore for Section-I from Ennore port to Thatchur is in progress and the loan agreement has been signed with Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) for a loan of Rs.2,673 crore. Government has approved the acquisition of land for three more sections of the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road at a cost of Rs.2,603.32 crore. Assistance of Rs.3,346.49 crore from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) is being tied up for the execution of sections II and III of the project from Thatchur to Sriperumbudur. In the Budget for 2020-2021, Rs.1,000 crore has been provided for the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project.

102) To improve traffic flow to save time and vehicle operating costs while ensuring pedestrian safety, the Chennai City Traffic Decongestion Project has been prepared at a cost of Rs.4,257 crore and posed to the New Development Bank for assistance. The Government has accorded administrative sanction for the land acquisition for the project at a cost of Rs.1,122 crore. The Government has accorded sanction for a 10.1 km elevated road from Coimbatore Airport to Upplipalayam along Avinashi Road in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.1,620 crore. A provision of Rs.200 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for implementation of this project.

103) In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, the allocation for Highways Department has been substantially stepped up to Rs.15,850.54 crore.

Transport

104) The bus public transport system of Tamil Nadu has played a vital role in the socio economic development of the State. The State Transport Corporations operate 19,496 buses every day with anaverage age of the fleet of 6.58 years. The physical performance parameters of the STUs have been consistently improving and fuel efficiency has increased to

5.34 km per litre. The accident rate has also come down to 0.12 accident per 1 lakh km operated.

105) This Government is committed to increase ridership in the public transport

system through upgrading the physical and financial performance of the State Transport Corporations while maintaining the affordable fare structure. The project agreement for the first tranche of assistance from KfW was signed on 26th September, 2019 which will finance the purchase of 2,213 new BS VI compliant buses at a cost of Rs.1,580 crore. A provision of Rs.960 crore is made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the implementation of this project. Tenders for the purchase of 525 electric buses under FAME India II project will also be finalized shortly.

106) This Government recognizes that high quality public transportation is a public good and requires Government support to be viable. In 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.298 crore has been provided in the Budget to compensate Transport Corporations for the hike in diesel prices. In the Revised Estimates for 2019-2020, a total sum of Rs.1,050 crore has been provided as reimbursement for issue of bus passes to the students to cover the period upto January 2020. Short term loan of Rs.1,093crore has been provided in 2019-2020 to settle retirement dues for employees who have retired upto 31st March, 2019.

107) To enhance the safety of women in buses, CCTV cameras are to be fitted in all buses at an estimated cost of Rs.75.02 crore allotted under the Nirbhaya Fund. Action will be taken to introduce electronic ticketing in all transport buses to enable cashless transactions. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, Rs.2,716.26 crore has been allotted for Transport Department.

Chennai Metro Rail

108) Chennai now has a fully functional metro rail system, but to derive the benefits of a modern mass transit system, it is essential that the reach of the network is further extended. Hence, the Government accords high priority to the speedy implementation of the three metro rail corridors of a total length of 118.90 km, identified in Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project. Funding from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has been obtained for a stretch of 52.01 km from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur and from Madhavaram to Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT). Detailed designs are ready and the construction work on the project will commence shortly. Financing from multilateral agencies including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and New Development Bank is being firmed up for the remaining stretches of Phase-II from CMBT to Sholinganallur, Sholinganallur to SIPCOT, Siruseri and from Light House to Poonamallee bypass. Government of India has also been requested to accord early approval to provide 50 percent equity share capital as was done for Phase-I of the project. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.3,100 crore has been allocated for the Chennai Metro Rail Project as share capital assistance, subordinate debt and pass through loan assistance.

Energy

109) The per capita energy consumption in Tamil Nadu is 1,467 units in 2018-2019 and amongst the highest in the country. Since 2011,

15,296 MW of generating capacity has been added through State and Central sector projects and power purchases to give TANGEDCO an aggregate installed capacity of 31,780 MW including 13,343 MW of renewable energy capacity.

110) An important component of electricity infrastructure is the transmission grid. To evacuate electricity from the new generation capacity created in the Southern Districts, and to strengthen the transmission connectivity along the proposed Chennai Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor, the 765 KV and 400 KV net works will be upgraded, by establishing a 400 KV sub-station at Ottapidaram and a 765 KV sub-station at Virudhunagar along with associated transmission lines. This project is being implemented at a total cost of Rs.4,650 crore with an Asian Development Bank loan of 451 Million USD. A provision of Rs.450 crore has been made for the implementation of this project in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

111) Distribution infrastructure is also being continuously upgraded in both rural and urban areas to provide uninterrupted and reliable power supply. 5,692 existing distribution transformers in Chennai and its suburbs are being replaced by 11 KV Ring Main Units at a cost of about Rs.785 crore. TANGEDCO has successfully implemented for the first time in India, automatic meter reading on a large scale, for open access billing to enable real time monitoring of wind and solar energy generators and HT consumers. This will result in significant operational and financial benefits. To have effective energy accounting and audit, 100 percent metering of all distribution transformers will be implemented. 1.41 lakh consumers under Chennai Smart City's Area Based Development (ABD) project in Thiyagaraya Nagar area are being provided smart meters and such meters will be provided in the rest of Chennai in a phased manner.

112) The Government continues to support TANGEDCO to tide over its difficult financial situation. Under the UDAY scheme Rs.22,815 crore of TANGEDCO's debt was taken over by the State Government, to be converted to grants over a 5 year period. The fourth instalment of grant of Rs.4,563 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also committed to funding 50 per cent of the losses incurred by TANGEDCO in the previous year and in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, Rs.4,265.56 crore has been provided for this purpose. To improve the overall financial and physical performance of TANGEDCO and TANTRANSCO, a detailed strategic management study funded by the Government would be undertaken during 2020-2021. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a total amount of Rs.20,115.58 crore has been provided for the Energy sector.

School Education

113) This Government accords the highest priority to providing quality education to every child and hence the highest budgetary allocation of Rs.34,181.73 crore has been made for the School Education Department. Tamil Nadu stands first in terms of providing access to school as per the Performance Grading Index published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.The net enrolment ratio at the primary education level has reached 99.88 per cent and the drop out rate has been reduced to 0.8 per cent at the primary level. The number of out of school children has fallen to 30,104 in 2019-2020, out of which 29,740 children have now been enrolled in schools.

114) The Government is also ensuring the retention of children in schools through the provision of school supplies including school bags, school uniforms, footwear, note books, text books, geometry boxes and colour pencils. A sum of Rs.1,018.39 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for this purpose. Students in Class XI in Government and Government aided schools will be provided a laptop by the Government and a sum of Rs.966.46 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for this purpose.

115) The quality of school infrastructure is upgraded through the construction of additional class rooms, laboratories, toilets and other facilities.NABARD has recently sanctioned infrastructure upgradation in 158 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.277.88 crore under RIDF. To implement NABARD funded projects, a sum of Rs.258.82 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021. Tamil Nadu has been rated as the best performing State for functional drinking water facility in schools by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

116) Learning outcomes improve only with the availability of teachers, their involvement and the enhanced quality of teaching. I am happy to inform members that the pupil-teacher ratio in Tamil Nadu is much better than the norms prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. In order to ensure the attendance of teachers, Aadhaar enabled bio-metric attendance system has been made operational in all Government and Government Aided High and Higher Secondary schools. To improve the quality of teaching, high technology laboratories are being established in all Government High and Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.520.13 crore. Teachers have been trained to use ICT solutions to teach their students in a more creative and effective manner.120 model schools have been established as demonstration schools for other schools in the neighbourhood.

117) For the Centrally Sponsored Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a provision of Rs.3,202.49 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021. The Government continues to urge the Government of India to release the long pending arrears of Rs.3,201.30 crore under the Sarva Shiksha Abiyan and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

118) This Government continues to implement Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 very effectively and 76,927 students have been admitted to private schools under this provision during the current academic year. So far Rs.644.69 crore has been reimbursed as school fee. A sum of Rs.304.14 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for the implementation of the scheme during 2020-2021.

Higher Education

119) Tamil Nadu is a leading State in ensuring access to Higher Education. From the year 2011-2012 to 2019-2020, 30 new Government Arts & Science Colleges and 27 University Constituent Colleges have been opened. 14 University Constituent Colleges have

been converted into Government Colleges in 2019-2020. In addition, 21 Government Polytechnic Colleges have been opened since 2013-2014 and 4 new Government Engineering Colleges have been opened since 2012-2013. 1,577 new courses have been started in Government Arts and Science Colleges since 2011-2012. To enable poor students to enroll in higher education, tuition fee concessions to first graduate students will continue to be provided. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.506.04 crore has been provided for this programme.

120) The Government College of Engineering, Coimbatore is completing 75 years this year. To commemorate this occasion, the Government will sanction a special grant of Rs.10 crore for upgradation of infrastructure and facilities at the Government College of Engineering, Coimbatore. In addition, the college has number of illustrious alumni, would be willing to contribute to the further development of the institution. The Government will match the contribution made by the alumni during the 75th anniversary year for the development of the College.

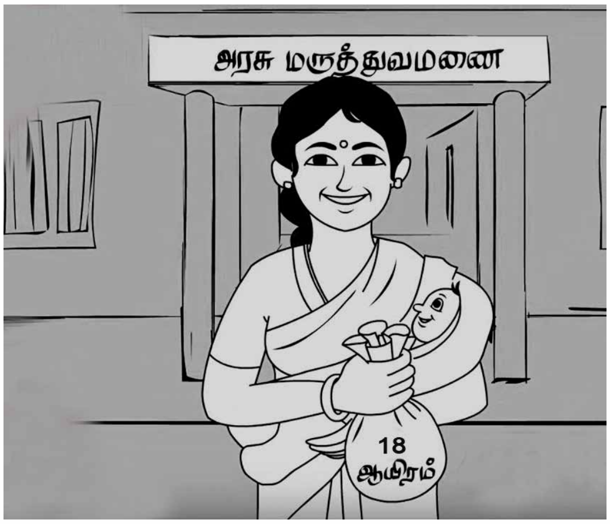
121) A total sum of Rs.91.50 crore is provided towards block grant for universities in the State. A sum of Rs.225.78 crore is provided specifically for Annamalai University to enable them to overcome the financial crisis. A special grant of Rs.11.72 crore will be made to University of Madras towards the pension fund as they carry a larger pension burden as the first University in the State. A total sum of Rs.5,052.84 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for Higher Education.

122) Madras School of Economics (MSE) was set up in Chennai in 1993 with the support of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa and land was provided in Kotturpuram. MSE has grown in stature and is one of the most prestigious institutes for advanced study in economics, environment and management in India. The Government will bring in legislation to recognize Madras School of Economics as an Institute of Special Importance and enable MSE to award its own degrees and diplomas.

Health and Family Welfare

123) Tamil Nadu is one of the best performing States in the health sector in India. The concerted efforts of this Government have resulted in a significant reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate to 16 in 2017 from 24 in 2010. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has reduced from 90 per one lakh live births in 2010-2012 to 63 in 2015-2017 and further to 57 in 2019 as per the data maintained by the State Government. With this, Tamil Nadu has achieved the Sustainable Development Goal for 2030 of reducing MMR to 70 per one lakh live births, well ahead of the due date.

124) Due to the effective implementation of the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, under which financial assistance of Rs.18,000 is paid to the eligible women for upto two pregnancies, Tamil Nadu is the only State in India with 99.9 percent institutional deliveries, of which 65 per cent are deliveries in Government institutions. So far, 60.64 lakh poor pregnant women have received



an amount of Rs.6,033.81 crore under the scheme. The Government of India's Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has been dovetailed with the State scheme. An amount of Rs.23.10 crore has been received from the Government of India during 2019-2020. A sum of Rs.959.21 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the implementation of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme.

125) Tamil Nadu has the proud record of delivering quality health care at the primary and secondary levels through the public health care system. This Government will continue to strengthen the primary and secondary health care facilities available in the State. The Tamil Nadu Health Systems Reforms Programme supported by the World Bank at a cost of Rs.2,857 crore is intended to further strengthen the quality of care in Government hospitals, particularly the management of non-communicable diseases and to reduce the inequities in reproductive and child health services. The Budget Estimates 2020-2021 include a provision of Rs.260.14 crore for the programme.

126) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the Novel Corona Virus epidemic affecting 25 countries as a Public Health Emergency of International concern. The Government of Tamil Nadu, in line with the national guidelines, has strengthened the surveillance and control measures against the disease. The Government has procured and stocked adequate quantity of Personal Protective Equipment kits, masks and triple layer masks as a preparedness measure. Requisite funds will be provided for preparedness and preventive measures.

127) In order to provide the people of the State equitable access to high quality tertiary medical care, this Government launched the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS). A total number of 1.59 crore families are covered under this program and since its inception in January 2012, 41.12 lakh persons have availed medical facilities worth Rs.6,601.59 crore. Government hospitals received an insurance amount of Rs.2,453.22 crore which has been utilized for upgradation of facilities in the hospitals. With the integration of the CMCHIS with the Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana, the total insurance coverage has been enhanced to Rs.5 lakh per annum. A total amount of Rs.1,033.29 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the CMCHIS.

128) One of the main reasons for Tamil Nadu's leading position in health care is the availability of quality human resources. The vision of late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa was to establish Government Medical Colleges in all Districts of the State. The untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister has resulted in the State Government obtaining approval of the Government of India for establishing an unprecedented 11 Medical Colleges in one year, at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, the Nilgiris, Dindigul, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi

Districts at a total cost of Rs.3,575 crore. Rs.1,200 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for establishing the 11 new Medical Colleges. The Government will take over the Medical College attached to Annamalai University and this would be the Government Medical College in Cuddalore District.

129) The Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project at a total cost of Rs.1,634 crore is being implemented with support from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), under which buildings and equipment are to be provided for 11 Medical College hospitals and 10 District and sub-District hospitals located in urban areas. Rs.510.15 crore is provided in the Budget for 2020-2021 for this project.

130) In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.15,863.37 crore is provided for the Health & Family Welfare Department.

Labour Welfare

131) Tamil Nadu has a record of maintaining peaceful industrial relations and the Labour Department ensures that any labour related issue is promptly resolved. The 17 unorganised workers welfare boards continue to perform effectively and in the calendar year 2019, 2,63,189 workers have been registered and a sum of Rs.241.94 crore has been disbursed to 4.32 lakh beneficiaries as welfare assistance.An allocation of Rs.149.82 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for grants to unorganized workers welfare boards. This year the Government has provided safety kits including safety shoes, safety helmets, reflective jackets, hand gloves and safety goggles to 25,000 construction workers at a cost of Rs.5.44 crore. The Government will provide safety kits to all active construction workers and in 2020-2021 safety kits will be provided to one lakh construction workers at a cost of Rs.20 crore.

Employment and Skill Training

132) In order to fully reap Tamil Nadu's demographic dividend, this Government has made Skill Development one of its top most priorities. The State Career Guidance Centre at Guindy, Chennai and the Virtual Learning System Portal to facilitate e-learning, e-content and e-books have started functioning and have already benefitted 2.15 lakh candidates.

133) During 2019-2020, 2 new Government ITIs have been established at Sembodai, Nagapattinam District and at Perumbakkam, Chengelpet District in partnership with M/s Bharat Petroleum Corporation and M/s Power Grid Corporation Limited. One new ITI will be established in SIPCOT Industrial Park in Oragadam at a cost of Rs.15 crore in partnership with SIPCOT and other industries. A comprehensive trade rationalization scheme at a total cost of Rs.17.80 crore will be taken up in Government ITIs in which obsolete courses will be replaced with in demand courses to cater to industry needs. Tamil Nadu is the first State to launch a special programme to train eligible candidates in e-vehicle techniques in ITIs at a cost of Rs.4.77 crore. A State Skill Training Institute for imparting refresher and in-service training to ITI faculty will be established in Chennai at a cost of Rs.1.60 crore to address the pressing need for faculty upgradation.

134) Based on a skill gap analysis, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) is imparting training in key sectors including auto mobile, health care, textiles, IT-ITES, agriculture, leather, beauty & wellness, logistics, gems & jewellery and tourism & hospitality. TNSDC has launched an interactive portal to enable candidates to carry out assessments. During 2019-2020, 69,736 candidates under the PMKVY (2.0) and 25,000 youth under the Amma Skill Training and Employment Scheme are being trained. Short term skill training is provided to 20,000 youths in urban areas. Recognition of Prior Learning is a successful programme and skill certification for 58,776 persons has been done so far.

135) Five Apex Skill Development Centres (ASDCs) on PPP basis are being established in Tamil Nadu and MoUs have been signed with 3 identified partners in Logistics, Automobile and Health Care sectors. Two more ASDCs will be established in the Construction and Banking, Financial Services and Insurance sectors. TNSDC will also implement the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project to build a pool of quality trainers and assessors at a cost of Rs.20.32 crore. A provision of Rs.200 crore has been made for TNSDC in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

Industries

136) Tamil Nadu continues to be one of the most attractive investment destinations in India. This Government has focused on ensuring that the committed investments during the Global Investors Meet are actually implemented. After the GIM, this Government, with the direct involvement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his successful tour to United Kingdom, United States and Dubai, has ensured that many more new investments are attracted to the State. In January 2020, investments worth Rs.52,075 crore generating employment for 32,405 persons have been approved. The largest single investment till date in Tamil Nadu of Rs.49,000 crore will be made by the Al Qebla Al Watya Group of Kuwait in a petroleum refinery and petro-chemical complex near Thoothukudi. This investment is expected to generate sizeable downstream benefits including large employment in the southern Districts of Tamil Nadu.

137) The Government of Tamil Nadu will shortly launch a New Industrial Policy which will provide GST regime compatible incentives. The Government unveiled a very progressive Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy in 2019, with the dual objective of making electric vehicles (EVs) the preferred mode of mobility and positioning the State as a manufacturing hub for EVs, components and charging infrastructure. To optimize the utilization of land available for industrial use and reduce diversion of cultivable land, the Floor Space Index (FSI) for industries has been increased from 1 to 1.5 and the plot coverage has been increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent.

138) The Ponneri Industrial Node of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) will be developed on an area of 21,966 acres in Thiruvallur District. The State Support Agreement and Shareholders' Agreement for this project have been approved.The Chennai Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) will be implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank as a second phase of the East Coast Economic Corridor. Preparatory work for setting up a Fintech city on 300 acres near Kattupakkam on GST road has commenced. The pre-feasibility study on alternative sites for setting up a greenfield airport in Chennai has

also been completed and preparatory work has commenced.

139) SIPCOT has developed 23 Industrial Complexes including 7 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) spread over 33,775acres. Land has been allotted to 2,631 industrial units with a total investment of Rs.1.14 lakh crore and employment of 6.48 lakh persons. 4,457 acres of land is available for immediate allotment. SIPCOT has substantially reduced the charges for sublease and for change in management, to optimise utilization of built up space in its industrial estates. 13 more industrial parks are being established over an extent of 16,725 acres including in six southern Districts of Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli. The land acquisition for the industrial park in Ramanathapuram has been completed. To promote innovation at the grass root level SIPCOT will establish Industrial Innovation Centres at Sriperumbudur and Hosur, with support under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives, at a total cost of Rs.53.44 crore. A Trade Facilitation Centre at an estimated cost of Rs.34.81 crore is being established at Siruseri. SIPCOT will also establish a 60 MLD Desalination Plant to meet the water requirement of industries in and around Thoothukudiindustrial park at an estimated cost of Rs.634 crore. TIDCO and HLL Life Care Limited propose to establish a Medi Park near Chenglpattu at a project cost of Rs.205 crore. TANCEM has commissioned the new cementplant at Ariyalur with a total capacity of 10 lakh MT which more than doubles the existing capacity.

140) In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.2,500 crore has been provided for payment of industrial incentives.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

141) Tamil Nadu maintains its leading position in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. There are currently 22.21 lakh registered units in the State with a total investment of Rs.2.51 lakh crore, providing employment to 1.42 crore persons. So far during 2019-2020, 2.07 lakh entrepreneurs have filed Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM) with an intent of investment of Rs.27,764 crore and to provide employment to 13.38 lakh persons.

142) Tamil Nadu is effectively implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP). To expand the benefits available under UYEGP, the existing project size limit of Rs.10 lakh will be enhanced to Rs.15 lakh and the eligible subsidy under the scheme will be enhanced from Rs.1.25 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh. This will encourage thousands of budding entrepreneurs. The provision for this scheme has been enhanced to Rs.33 crore in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

143) The flagship entrepreneurship initiative of Tamil Nadu is the New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS). The maximum project cost was increased from Rs.100 lakh to Rs.500 lakh in April 2018. However, the maximum cap on the capital subsidy was increased only from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.30 lakh

in 2018. The Government will enhance the maximum capital subsidy under the NEEDS scheme from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.50 lakh. A sum of Rs.100 crore has been allocated for this scheme in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

144) The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the enhancement of interest subvention for loans availed by MSMEs from Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation from 3 per cent to 6 per cent in July 2019. The interest subvention available under the Technology Upgradation Scheme and the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust scheme still continues at 3 per cent. I am happy to announce the enhancement of the interest subvention from 3 per cent to 5 per cent under these two schemes as well.

145) SIDCO is utilizing various components of the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE – CDP) of the Government of India to upgrade existing SIDCO estates, provide infrastructure in new estates and develop Common Facility Centres (CFCs)in clusters. Four more new industrial estates at Pidaneri, Periyanesalur, Uthangarai and Marikundu are under implementation at a total cost of Rs.33.70 crore. 2 new industrial estates are being taken up at Kurukkalpatti and Perundurai. A new Industrial Estate at a total cost of Rs.4.50 crore will be established in Umayalpuram and Puthirakoundanpalayam villages in Pethanaickanpalayam Taluk of Salem District. During 2019-2020, final approval for 6 CFC projects at a cost of Rs.95.48 crore and in principle approval for 4 new CFCs at a cost of Rs.47.65 crore have been obtained from the Government of India and will be implemented.

146) The Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII-TN) has trained 13,626 entrepreneurs so far. The EDII is implementing the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission(TANSIM).TANSIM will create and nurture at least 500 startups in 2020-2021. An allocation of Rs.75 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for activities under TANSIM.

147) A total allocation of Rs.607.62 crore has been made for the MSME Department in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021.

Handloom, Handicraft, Textiles and Khadi

148) The textile sector in Tamil Nadu provides the largest employment after agriculture. The scheme of providing rebate to promote the sale of handloom cloth will be continued with a budget allocation of Rs.150 crore in 2020-2021. The handloom support scheme launched in 2018-2019 will be continued in 2020-2021 with a budgetary allocation of Rs.40 crore. The scheme for supply of free electricity to handloom and power loom industry will also be continued and a budgetary allocation of Rs.360.33 crore has been provided towards subsidy payable to TANGEDCO.

149) The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu New Integrated Textile Policy, 2019 on 6th March, 2019. The policy focuses on attracting new investments, encouraging technology upgradation, bridging the skill gap, creation of infrastructure, provision of better amenities for textile workers and encouraging compliance with environmental standards. A sum of Rs.48.02 crore has been provided for the additional incentives as per the new policy, in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021. Over all, Rs.1,224.25 crore has been provided in Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the Handlooms and Textiles sector.

Information Technology

150) The Government will ensure that Tamil Nadu remains in the forefront of cutting

edge innovation areas like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IOT), Blockchain and Data Analytics. With the aim of making Tamil Nadu a leading financial technology centre, the Government has established a Centre of Excellence for Fin Tech at Software Technology Parks of India, Chennai at a total cost of Rs.23 crore with a grant of Rs.5.75 crore from the State Government. To accommodate the increasing demand for establishing new IT based units, ELCOT will construct 2.5 lakh sq. ft. of additional space at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.100 crore and 1 lakh sq. ft. of space at Tiruchirapalliat a cost of Rs.40 crore.

151) Harnessing the potential of information and communication technology for more effective governance, is a key objective of the Government. Government has established the Open Government Data (OGD portal) to share Government data, to enable members of the public to come up with solutions and applications relevant for improved service delivery. The Chief Minister's Dashboard project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.5.02 crore to enable the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers to make data driven decisions and effectively monitor the activities of Government Departments. A sum of Rs.6 crore has been sanctioned for the Phase-I of the Predictive Governance project to identify and deliver public services to citizens even without their actually having to apply for such services.

152) The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the establishment of the State Family Database for Tamil Nadu, for cross Department data harmonization and synchronization, streamlining Government service delivery,and data driven decision making. A provision of Rs.47.50 crore is made in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 to implement this ambitious project. An important dimension of digitalization and online collection of data is data privacy and security. The Government of Tamil Nadu has approved the implementation of the Cyber Security Architecture of Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs.21.39 crore to ensure data security.

153) The total allocation for Information Technology Department in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 is Rs.153.97crore.

Tourism

154) Tourism plays a vital role in stimulating the local economy. Tamil Nadu has received the highest number of foreign and domestic tourists each year since 2014. The Asian Development Bank assisted Tourism Development Project is currently under implementation and a sum of Rs.90.85 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the project.

155) Under the Tamil Nadu Tourism Promotion Project, 295 destinations have been identified, grouped into 6 circuits. A Master Plan will be prepared adopting a comprehensive area development approach to provide the facilities required by tourists at each destination. The rich culture and heritage of Tamil Nadu will be

leveraged highlighting new narratives to engage the tourists. The over all cost of the project including upgradation of basic infrastructure and provision of commercial hospitality and logistics infrastructure is expected to be Rs.2,000 crore. Funding will be on a PPP basis with support from the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund and private investors.

156) Following upon the recent visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the President of the Peoples' Republic of China to Mamallapuram, a special tourism promotion package has been prepared at a total cost of Rs.563.50 crore and submitted to the Government of India for approval. Similarly, a special package at a cost of Rs.9.80 crore is being prepared for upgrading facilities at Rameswaram. Government of India assistance will be availed under the programme for assistance to State tourism projects announced in the Union Budget 2020-2021.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

157) Since 2011, renovation work of 11,365 temples has been completed at a cost of Rs.542.73 crore and the Kumbabishekams have been performed. 12,745 temples are benefitting under the Oru Kala Pooja scheme. Since 2011, 6,741 temples situated in Adi-Dravidar habitations have been taken up for renovation at a total cost of Rs.49.21 crore. In addition, renovation work of 5,847 village temples at a cost of Rs.42.11 crore has been taken up. 858 temple tanks have been desilted at a cost of Rs.4.69 crore. From May, 2011, 7,233.76 acres of lands of 1,125 temples has been retrieved and pattas have been transferred in the names of the temples. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.281.17 crore has been provided for the HR & CE Department.

Public Works Department Buildings

158) Buildings Wing of the Public Works Department maintains thousands of Government buildings spread all over the State. For the construction of buildings, in the Budget for 2020-2021 Rs.1,453.91 crore has been provided. There are a large number of heritage buildings which house Government offices. I am happy to inform the House that the Government will make a special annual allocation for the restoration and conservation of heritage Government buildings and accordingly, a provision of Rs.50 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021.

159) Todhunter Nagar in Saidapet is spread over 74 acres and has rental accommodation for Government servants constructed and maintained by both Public Works Department and Tamil Nadu Housing Board. A master plan will be prepared to improve the layout of the residential complex and to provide better amenities. To cater to the growing demands for rental housing from Government servants, one more residential tower will be constructed in Todhunter Nagar at Saidapet by the Public Works Department at a total cost of Rs.76 crore. Attendant facilities would be developed at a cost of Rs.24 crore. A provision of Rs.40 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for this purpose.

Social Welfare

160) True to the legacy of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa, this Government is committed to securing gender parity and justice. To this end, the Government is implementing a number of schemes targeted at empowering women and ensuring the welfare of children, especially girl children. Sex ratio at birth which was 918 in 2014-2015 has increased to 936 in 2019, as a result of the schemes for the protection of girl children - the Chief Minister's Cradle Baby Scheme and the Girl Child Protection Scheme. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 a sum of Rs.140.97crore has been allocated for these schemes. Under the various marriage assistance schemes, 1,04,795 persons have benefitted in 2019-2020. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, an allocation of Rs.726.32 crore has been provided towards the marriage assistance schemes. So far, 1.88 lakh two wheelers have been distributed to working women under the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme. The scheme will continue to be implemented during 2020-2021 with a provision of Rs.253.14 crore. The Government has formed the Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostel Corporation Limited as a Special Purpose Vehicle to establish and manage working women hostels. 13 locations have been identified with eight in Chennai and one each at Krishnagiri, Trichy, Hosur, Kancheepuram and Namakkal for such hostels. A Gender Budget statement showing an outlay of Rs.78,796.12 crore in 2020-2021 towards women in the Budget has been prepared and is presented as part of the Budget documents.

161) The PuratchiThalaivar Dr. M.G.R Noon Meal Programme is being implemented in 43,243 noon meal centres with 48.57 lakh students being fed every day. A provision of Rs.1,863.32 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the noon meal programme. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme continues to be implemented in Tamil Nadu to improve the nutritional status of preschool children and to ensure a malnutrition free Tamil Nadu. Early childhood education is also receiving greater emphasis under ICDS. A provision of Rs.2,535.54 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for ICDS.

162) Protecting the rights of children in difficult situations is a fundamental duty of the Government. The Government will devise effective ways of ensuring that children in orphanages are given the best possible start in life. A new Tamil Nadu State Child Policy is under formulation and will be launched shortly. A total amount of Rs.175.35 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for the Directorate of Social Defence.

163) Care for the elderly is part of our society's culture. With the increasing adoption of the nuclear family norm and the need to migrate for education and work, a large number of elderly only households are found in the State.The Government of Tamil Nadu in association with J-PAL launched a Longitudinal Panel Survey on issues relating to the elderly by a research team led by Nobel Laureate Dr. Esther Duflo. Based on the findings of the

study, the Government will to launch a number of initiatives for the elderly. As a pilot project, the Government will launch Elderly Resource Centres in two blocks in all 37 Districts with a total outlay of Rs.37 lakh.A total allocation of Rs.5,935.13 crore has been made for the Social Welfare and Noon-Meal Programme in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021.

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

164) The prime objective of this Government is to secure social justice and ensure the sustained socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Education provides the best opportunity for upward mobility. Hence, Rs.2,018.24 crore out of the total allocation of Rs.4,109.53 crore intended for Adi-Dravidar development in the Budget for 2020-2021 is earmarked for education related schemes. The Special Incentive scheme for girls students continues to be implemented at a cost of Rs.49.60 crore. Under the post matric scholarship,the State Government'scommitted annual liability has been increased steeply to Rs.1,526.46 crore and the flow of funds from the Government of India for this scheme has come down considerably. We have urged the Government of India to adopt the 60:40 sharing pattern for the post matric scholarship scheme on par with other Centrally Sponsored schemes. Through the strenuous efforts of the State Government, the Government of India have modified the restrictions imposed on claiming of fees against the management quota seats and many more students would now be eligible for the post matric scholarship. A sum of Rs.1,949.58 crore has been allocated for Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the scheme.

165) There is a growing demand for college hostels amongst Adi-Dravidar students. Accordingly, the Government will upgrade

15 hostels into college hostels at a cost of Rs.16.30 crore during 2020-2021. The allocation for maintenance of Adi-Dravidar hostels will be stepped up from Rs.6.89 crore to Rs.15 crore to ensure that the hostel buildings are well maintained. Infrastructure facilities in 223 Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools will be upgraded at a total cost of Rs.106.29 crore with NABARD assistance.

166) The special scheme for improving basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations launched in 2018-2019, will be continued during 2020-2021 with an allocation of Rs.100 crore. In addition, funds from schemes implemented by the Rural Development Department will also be dovetailed. TAHDCO has taken up an action plan to extend financial assistance to 23,425 beneficiaries under the economic development programme. During 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.135 crore will be provided to TAHDCO for implementation of this programme.

167) I am very happy to announce that this Government will launch a special project to ensure that all basic infrastructure facilities including all-weather houses, link roads, street lights, solar lights and drinking water facilities are provided in all the tribal habitations in the State. A detailed survey has been undertaken and a comprehensive plan at a cost of Rs.660 crore has been prepared which includes a component

of Rs.265 crore for housing. Under the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme, houses will be constructed for all the 8,803 tribal families in need of a house at a cost of Rs.3 lakh per house in 2020-2021. The differential cost of Rs.90,000 per house will be provided as a special allocation from the Tribal Welfare budget. For taking up the provision of link roads, street lights, solar lights and drinking water supply, Rs.395 crore will be provided over a period of three years. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.210 crore has been provided for this scheme, in addition to the Rs.40 crore provided for the completion of spill over works sanctioned during 2019-2020.

Welfare of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and

Denotified Communities

168) The Government recognizes that ensuring access to education is the most critical input to ensure the advancement of persons belonging to BC, MBC and Denotified communities. A sum of Rs.302.98 crore has been provided towards scholarship to students from these communities.3.63 lakh bicycles at a cost of Rs.142.84 crore are being provided to Class XI and ITI students. Currently 1,348 hostels are functioning, housing 85,314 students. In 2020-2021, 7 school hostels will be upgraded as college hostels. In 2019-2020, Rs.8.48 crore was allocated for construction of new buildings for hostels. Biometric attendance systems are being installed in all the hostels to monitor student attendance. A total sum of Rs.1,034.02 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 for the Welfare of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities.

Minorities Welfare

169) During 2019-2020, a total amount of Rs.98.66 crore will be disbursed as scholarships to about 3.64 lakh students belonging to Minority Communities. Poor destitute Muslim and Christian women are aided through the Muslim and Christian Women Aid Societies. The Government will enhance allocation for repair and renovation of churches from Rs.1 crore to Rs.5 crore. The annual allocation for maintenance of mosques will be enhanced from Rs.60 lakh to Rs.5 crore. The annual administrative grant for the Wakf Board has also been enhanced to Rs.2.50 crore.

Welfare of Differently Abled

170) Tamil Nadu is in the forefront of implementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. A special drive will be launched to clear backlog vacancies and ensure that the differently abled are given 4 per cent reservation in employment in Government Departmentsand PSUs. At present,a maintenance grant of Rs.1,500 per month is being provided to persons with intellectual disability, severely affected persons, leprosy affected persons and persons with muscular dystrophy,and about 1.75 lakh persons are receiving the grant at a total cost of Rs.313.26 crore. I am happy to inform the House that maintenance grants will now be paid to persons withdebilitating spinal cord injuries and chronic neurological conditions,namely Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis.

To clear pending applications and to cover the new categories, the budgetary allocation will be enhanced to Rs.375 crore in 2020-2021 to cover about 2.1 lakh eligible persons. In order to enable the hearing and visually impaired persons to communicate better, the Government will provide smart phones with appropriate applications, to 10,000 hearing and visually impaired persons at a total cost of Rs.10 crore. In the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.667.08 crore has been allocated for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons.

Youth Welfare and Development of Sports

171) Amma Youth Sports Scheme at a cost of Rs.76.23 crore has been launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 13th January 2020. Under the scheme, playfield facilities are being established, and sports equipment is being supplied to Village and Town Panchayats. The scheme has proved to be immensely popular and greatly enthused the rural youth. Hence, a further sum of Rs.45 crore is provided in the Budget for 2020-2021 to supply additional sports equipment and conduct competitions.

172) The Government has provided funds to develop world class sports infrastructure at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University including Centres of Excellence for Table Tennis, Badminton and sports bio mechanics. In addition, a Centre of Excellence for Canoeing and Kayaking is being established. These facilities will be utilized to create a High Performance Sports Centre to be used by athletes with national and international potential.

173) A sum of Rs. 218.66 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System (IFHRMS).

174) One of the largest e-governance projects which benefits every Department, every employee, every pensioner and every recipient of a payment from Government is the Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System (IFHRMS). This project covers all the 295 Pay and Accounts Offices, District Treasuries and Sub-Treasuries of the State and is accessed by the 19,000 Drawing & Disbursing Officers and contains all the information regarding all payments by Government and as pay, allowances and service records of all Government employees. Implementation of such a complex information and communication technology project involves considerable change management. The Government has ensured that the IFHRMS is rolled out all over the State only after validating all the data entered and consulting all relevant stakeholders and providing training to the employees. After a series of parallel runs with existing systems, the complete switch over to IFHRMS has commenced with Karur District in January 2020 and will be extended to the whole State by May 2020. This project will not only ensure accurate and speedy financial and human resources transactions, but will also considerably reduce the repetitive work load in all Departments and in the Treasuries. This will greatly enhance the productivity of Government

Departments and reduce grievances relating to delays in payments.

175) Once the budget management system under the IFHRMS is fully implemented, there will be a real opportunity to modernize budgetary and fiscal management in the State to enhance financial control and efficiency. The Government requested a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to review and advice on Tamil Nadu's public finance management systems especially relating to budget formulation and fiscal risk management. An IMF Technical team visited Tamil Nadu in December 2019 and submitted its report on modernizing budget formulation and managing fiscal risks. The Government will study this report and implement its recommendations, by availing technical assistance from the IMF.

Centre for Public Finance

176) State Governments now account for a larger share in over all public expenditure in India, and hence public finance issues need to be studied in detail from the perspective of the States, and specifically Tamil Nadu. With the growing complexity of the economic environment, to sustain public finances it is essential to obtain high quality policy advice from a dedicated institution. Hence, this Government will support the Madras School of Economics to establish a Centre for Public Finance,on the land adjacent to MSE's present campus. The Centre will conduct research in public finance, provide policy advice to Government, and also run academic courses. The Government will provide the land and a corpusgrant of Rs.5 crore for establishing the Centre.

Government Servants and Pensioners

177) In the Budget Estimates for the year 2020-2021, Rs.342 crore has been provided towards premium for health insurance for Government employees and Rs.306.65 crore for pensioners. The Government issued detailed guidelines to simplify the procedure for reimbursement of claims under the medical insurance scheme. A sum of Rs.173.95 crore has been provided for loans to Government employees under House Building Advance. An amount of Rs.64,208.55 crore has been provided towards payment of salaries and allowances to Government employees and Rs.32,009.35 crore for payment of pension to retired Government servants. The Government has consistently paid Dearness Allowance instalments without delay, despite the heavy and recurring fiscal burden.

PART-B

Resources for Financing the Budget

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

178) I have so far highlighted the major schemes, programmes and initiatives of the Government. I shall now turn to the aggregate fiscal position. The total expenditure on the revenue account in the Budget Estimates 2019-2020 was fixed at Rs.2,12,035.93 crore. Two supplementary estimates were presented before this House seeking additional revenue expenditure of Rs.2,282.43 crore and Rs.3,952.48 crore. The Government has managed to contain the level of expenditure and effect certain savings. Hence, the aggregate level of revenue expenditure in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020 has been contained to Rs.2,16,932.51 crore.

179) On the revenue receipts side, due to the slow down of growth in certain sectors of the economy, tax receipts of the State Government, particularly of Goods & Services Tax, Value Added Tax on non-GST goods and Motor Vehicle taxes are expected to fall short of the budget targets. State Excise and Stamp

Duty and Registration Fees are expected be at the budgeted levels. We are hopeful that the outstanding issues relating to the settlement of Rs.4,073 crore due to Tamil Nadu as IGST from the year 2017-2018 will be settled before the end of the current fiscal year. In the aggregate, State Own Tax Revenue is expected to be Rs.1,20,809.63 crore in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020 against the Rs.1,24,813.06 crore in the Budget Estimates 2019-2020.

180) There is a large and unprecedented reduction in Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes received as devolution in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020. As against the Rs.30,638.77 crore received as share of Central taxes 2018-2019, the Union Budget presented on 1st February, 2019 had indicated that Rs.33,978.47 crore would be transferred in the Budget Estimates for 2019-2020. In the Revised Estimates for 2019-2020 presented recently, Tamil Nadu's share of Central Taxes has been reduced to Rs.26,392.40 crore. A drop of Rs.7,586.07 crore is due to the lower collections expected in 2019-2020 and the Rs.2,368 crore deducted on account of the excess releases made in the 2018-2019 as the actual collection of Central Taxes fell below the Revised Estimates for 2018-2019. This sharp decline is unprecedented and has placed the State finances in a difficult situation in 2019-2020. The State Governments has had to find alternatives to sustain the level of essential expenditure.

181) To some extent, the State Government has made up the shortfall in the two major items of Revenue by ensuring higher collection of non tax revenue and by obtaining grants in aid from Government of India for various schemes and projects, over and above what was budgeted for in 2019-2020. This has been enabled by sustained follow up by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers and officials with the Government of India. Non-Tax revenues in Revised Estimates 2019-2020 are projected to be Rs.14,195.28 crore, which is higher than the Budget Estimates 2019-2020 of Rs.13,326.91 crore. Grants-in-aid from the Central Government are projected to reach Rs.30,463.57 crore in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020 as against Rs.25,602.74 crore in the Budget Estimates 2019-2020.

182) As a result, the overall shortfall has been moderated and the total revenue receipts in Revised Estimates 2019-2020 are estimated to be Rs.1,91,860.88 crore, which is a reduction of Rs.5,860.29 crore compared to Budget Estimates 2019-2020. On account of the increased expenditure and reduced revenue receipts, the overall revenue deficit for the year 2019-2020 has increased to Rs.25,071.63 crore in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020 as against the budgeted amount of Rs.14,314.76 crore.

183) In order to ensure that growth creating expenditure does not suffer, this Government has been very conscious not to reduce the overall capital outlay during 2019-2020. Accordingly the capital outlay in the Revised Estimates is expected to be Rs.31,220.89 crore which is about at the same level as in the Budget Estimates 2019-2020 at Rs.31,251.21 crore.

184) The Government is also very conscious to ensure that the fiscal deficit stays within the targets prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibilities Act, and in the Revised Estimates 2019-2020, fiscal deficit has been contained to Rs.55,058.39 crore which is within 3 per cent of the State GSDP as per the latest Advance Estimates (Provisional).

185) Coming to the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021, revenue growth has been pegged

at a conservative level. Commercial Taxes continue to be the largest contributor to the State Own Tax Revenue. The introduction of GST has already constrained the taxation capacity of the State. Persistent teething problems in the GST Network and compliance issues in other States, added to the overall slowing of economic growth, have meant that revenue growth has been below expectation. The overall collection of Commercial Taxes has been estimated at Rs.1,02,236.59 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2020-2021. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, the receipts from Excise Duty has been estimated at Rs.8,133.81 crore. In the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, recovery in Motor Vehicle Tax collection is expected and Rs.6,897.73 crore has been estimated as revenue.

186) We expect that the revenue from Stamp Duty and Registration Fees will recover in Budget Estimates 2020-2021 based on the new initiatives taken by the Government in the simplification of the Common Development and Building Rules. The Tamil Nadu Regularization of Rights of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017 has come into force and all existing tenancies need to be registered under the Act before the extended date of 19th September, 2020. Stamp duty is payable on all rental agreements including those which are of less than one year. To promote voluntary compliance and to enable both the landlords and tenants to realize the full benefits of registration under the new Tenancy Act, the Government have decided to reduce the Stamp Duty currently applicable for rental agreements for residential property for a period upto five years, from the current 1 per cent to 0.25 per cent. The Registration Charges on such agreements will also be reduced from 1 per cent to 0.25 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs.5,000. The overall collection of Stamp Duty and Registration fees in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 is projected to be Rs.14,435.09 crore.

187) The total receipts on account of State's Own Tax Revenue in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021 are estimated at Rs.1,33,530.30 crore. The receipts under the non tax revenue are expected to be Rs.15,898.81 in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

188) The modest increase in Tami Nadu's share of devolution based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission has meant that in the Budget Estimates 2020-2021, the share of Tamil Nadu in Central taxes is estimated at Rs.32,849.34 crore. The Grants in Aid have been projected as Rs.37,096.69 crore including a sum of Rs.4,025 crore recommended for Tamil Nadu as the post devolution revenue deficit grant. The total revenue receipts in Budget Estimates 2020-2021 are estimated at Rs.2,19,375.14 crore.

189) Revenue expenditure has been projected on a realistic basis for the year 2020-2021 at an aggregate level of Rs.2,40,992.78 crore. All salary, pension, interest payments and scheme related expenditure have been fully budgeted for. The Revenue Deficit for 2020-2021 is estimated to come down to Rs.21,617.64 crore.

190) In order to enhance growth, the over all capital outlay including net loans and advances has been increased to Rs.37,728.65 crore which represents a substantial 25.8 per cent increase over the provisions in 2019-2020. Many projects have already been accorded approval and adequate provisions have been made in the Budget to ensure that works commence early in the year the implementation does not suffer for want of fund flow.

191) Despite the many fiscal constraints, Tamil Nadu remains steadfast in adhering to fiscal discipline and has maintained key fiscal ratios including the fiscal deficit and the Debt to GSDP ratio within the prescribed norms. During 2020-2021 even as capital outlays have been enhanced to the growth enhancing levels, the over all fiscal deficit has been contained at Rs.59,346.29 crore which is 2.84 per cent of GSDP and within the statutory limit.

192) In order to finance the fiscal deficit during 2020-2021, it is estimated that Rs.59,209.30 crore will be raised as net debt against the overall permissible borrowing limit of Rs.62,757.80 crore. Therefore, the net outstanding debt as at the end of 31.3.2021 is expected at Rs.4,56,660.99 crore and debt to GSDP ratio will be 21.83 per cent which is well within the norm of 25 per cent.

193) The medium term fiscal plan has been annexed to this Budget speech and I request that it may be taken as having been read as part of the speech.

194) Tamil Nadu continues to see sustained increase of its revenue deficit. The burden imposed on the State finances by the take over of debt and losses of TANGEDCO under the UDAY scheme, the lag effect of the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission, the slower growth in tax revenue both at the Centre and the State, have all caused the increased revenue deficit. Salary and pension related expenditure shows a consistent increase. The Government is committed to find ways to contain the overall level of non-development expenditure and find additional resources to finance growth oriented expenditure.

195) I expect that the implementation of the recommendations of the Expenditure Rationalisation Committee chaired by Thiru S. Audiseshiah IAS (Retd.) which has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Chief Minister yesterday, will enable the Government to substantially enhance productivity of Government Departments and thereby free up more resources for development programmes. Through the implementation of the IFHRMS, by modernizing budget formulation and fiscal risk management, securing expert advice and consistent efforts within Government, I am confident the finances of the State will be even better managed in 2020-2021.

196) High growth in itself will enhance the welfare of the people of the State. Growth will also provide more resources to the State Government to implement more welfare schemes for the poor, the down trodden and the vulnerable, who always remain the focus of our attention. We have confidence that the policies and programmes of this Government including the thrust on bringing in new investments will induce the virtuous cycle of rapid economic growth, more jobs, rising incomes and in turn more revenues for the Government to implement more welfare programmes.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

"பொருள்கருவி காலம் வினையிடனொடு
ஐந்தும்
இருள்தீர எண்ணிச் செயல்"

(குறள் 675)

'In the matter of executing a task, the necessary finance, the required instrument, the appropriate time, the nature of the task and the place of action, all these five must be carefully thought out leaving no doubt about the matter and then only you must act'

(Kural 675)

197) The late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma effectively adopted

the five strategies propounded by Sage Thiruvalluvar to gain success upon success and further guided us, that in order to succeed we should add a sixth strategy of being firm in our resolve to focus only on the welfare of the people and ignore all impediments placed in our path, boldly tackle all attacks on us, and brush aside deliberate, biased and unnecessary criticism, allegations and accusations.

198) I am grateful to late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, whose far sighted vision, sagacity and wisdom remains the foundation on which the success of this Government is based. Amma's spirit continues to guide me and this Government in all our efforts and endeavours.

199) I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami for his unstinted support and able guidance which has enabled me to prepare this Budget.

200) I convey my gratitude to Thiru.S.Krishnan, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department who assisted me tirelessly and all the other officials of the Department who have toiled hard on the preparation of the Budget.

201) Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Budget Estimates for the year 2020-2021 for the approval of this august House.

Nanri! Vanakkam!

124th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose

In connection with the 124th birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Director of Information and Public Relations and other high Government officials paid floral tributes to the portrait of Netaji, kept near his statue at Marina Beach, Chennai, on 23.01.2020.

Republic Day celebrated with great enthusiasm

The Republic Day celebrations of the Tamil Nadu Government commenced with enthusiasm on the morning of 26.01.2020 near the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai. Escorted by a contingent of Traffic Police on motorbikes, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami arrived at the venue, acknowledging people's reception and conveying to them his Republic Day good wishes by waving the hand.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was received on the dais with a bouquet of flowers by the Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K. Shanmugam I.A.S. This was followed by the arrival of the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, escorted by a contingent of Air Force personnel on motorbikes. The Hon'ble Governor conveyed his Republic Day greetings to people by waving to them. On arrival to the dais, the Hon'ble Governor was received by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with a bouquet of flowers. Immediately thereafter, the Hon'ble Chief Minister introduced to the Hon'ble Governor, the commandants of the three wings of the Defence Forces and high officials of the Police Department.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, thereafter hoisted the National Flag and paid his respects. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also paid his respects to the National Flag. It was an enchanting sight to see a low-flying IAF helicopter showering flower petals on the National Flag.

There was a parade by the Army, Navy and the Air Force. Then the pageantry started. While the Air Force float displayed models of fighter planes, helicopters, missiles, radar and satellites, the Army float accompanied by the army artillery float, showcased models of modern guns and cannons. The Navy float had models of warships. This was followed by a parade by many Divisions including the Coast Guard, Ex-armymen, CISF, RPF, Tamil Nadu Special Police (men and women) and women commando unit. Then came the contingents of coastal security unit, The Nilgiris, cavalry, Prison Department, Fire and Rescue Service Department, Home Guards, senior students of the national institutions of the three wings of the defence forces, school and college students, student scouts and their respective teams of bands. The Hon'ble Governor took the salute of all these 44 contingents.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the medals for acts of gallantry including Anna medals to the following:

Anna Medal - 2020 Category-I (Government Employees) : Thiru.R.Raja , Driver, Fire and Rescue Services Department, Nagapattinam; Category - II (General Public): Thiru. T.Akesh, Thiru. Fistan Franklin, Thiru. S.Vinith, Thiru.D.Charliepan, and Thiru. Easter Premkumar; Tmt.Dhanalakshmi of Kattupakkam, Tiruvallur District, Selvi Vinodhini of Pammathukulam, Tiruvallur District and Thiru. Palaniappan and Tmt. Indira Gandhi of Muthambalpuram of Thanjavur District.

This year's Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award was given to Thiru. M.Shaj Mohammed of Tiruchirapalli District for promoting communal harmony among people.

The Gandhi Adigal Police Medals

were presented to Thiru. S.Chandra Mohan, Inspector of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Tiruppur City, Thiru. D.Rajasekaran, Inspector of Police, Central Investigation Unit, Tiruchirapalli Zone, Tmt.D.Poongothai, Women Inspector of Police, Panruti Police Station, Cuddalore District, Thiru. N.Azhagiri, Sub-Inspector of Police, Central Investigation Unit, Villupuram Zone and Thiru. A.Parthibanathan, Head Constable, Kumbakonam West Police Station, Thanjavur District.

The Chief Minister's Trophies for the Best Police Stations in the State were given to C2 Coimbatore Race Course Police Station (First Prize), Dindigul Town (North) Police Station (Second prize), and Dharmapuri Town Police Station (Third Prize).

Special Award by the Department of Agriculture to the farmer who obtained the highest yield in the State under System of Rice Intensification Method for cultivation of paddy was given to Thiru. Yuvakumar of Pasuvapatti Village, Erode District.

Then there was a parade of two wheelers by Tamil Nadu Police in which the policemen showed their acrobatic skills by riding motorcycles no-handed. Then folk cultural programmes were presented by school students, boys and girls. Their performance in colourful costumes to patriotic songs stole the hearts of visitors.

This was followed by a pageantry of decorated floats of the various Departments of the Tamil Nadu Government. The Hon'ble Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister enjoyed all these events. The general public participated in thousands in the Republic Day function conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government with patriotic fervour. The function came to a close with the rendering of the national anthem.

The first prize in the Departmental pageantry was won by the Police Department and the second and third prizes went to the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj respectively.

Hon'ble Chief Minister confers awards on 72 meritorious Tamil scholars

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the function to celebrate Thiruvalluvar Day and confer Tamil Nadu Government Awards, held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 20.01.2020. *(English Translation)*

Adoring the Deity of Prosperity who banished hunger from Tamil Nadu, the Darling of the River Ponni who retrieved the Cauvery, Goddess of Learning who fulfilled the desire for knowledge, the Goddess of Wealth who made women advance economically, and stating that Amma's birth made Tamil Nadu rejoice and Amma's rule developed Tamil Nadu, I pay my obeisance to our Goddess Amma.

Mahakavi Bharathiyar glorified 'Deiva Pulavar' Thiruvalluvar saying that Tamil Nadu's fame reached the pinnacle because it gave Valluvan to the world ("*Valluvan thannai ulaginukke thandhu vaan pugazh konda Tamil Nadu*). 'Pavendhar' Bharathidasan held that the world attained renown by yielding Thiruvalluvar. I am extremely happy to participate in the Tamil Nadu Government's celebration of Thiruvalluvar Day that declares to the world the greatness of Thiruvalluvar and the function for the distribution of Tamil Nadu Government's Awards.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam who presides over this function, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru.D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru.Kadambur

Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru.P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru.K. Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, K.A.Sengottaiyan, Sellur K.Raju, P.Thangamani, S.P.Velumani, K.P.Anbalagan, Dr. V. Saroja, Thiruvalargal R. Kamaraj, Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, Dr C.Vijayabaskar, Thiruvalargal R.Doraikkannu, Vellamandi N.Natarajan, K.C. Veeramani, Dr.Nilofer Kefeel, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thiruvalargal G.Baskaran, Sevvoor S.Ramachandran, Tmt. S.Valarmathi, Chief Government Whip Thiru.S. Rajendran, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Education Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Respected Parliamentarians and Legislators, former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr.M.Thambidurai, former Parliamentarians and Legislators, Respected Film Actor Thiru. Prabhu, artists, awardees who are to receive the awards, Tamils from overseas countries, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Thiru.K.Shanmugam who delivered the welcome address, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., who is to propose a vote of thanks, Elders, Ladies, Newspaper and Media friends –at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

Scholars are receiving awards today for their great work. My good wishes and congratulations to them.

Among the denizens of the earth, the human species alone has the capacity to speak. Expression of one's thoughts through sound has come to be known as language –"mozhi" in Tamil as signifying conveying of meaning through speech ("mozhivadhal"). Linguists say there are about 7,000 languages all over the world. Those with scripts among them are fewer. Mahakavi Bharathiyar has stated:

‘Among the languages we know, we don’t see any as sweet as Tamil’ (*Yaama rindha mozhigalile Tamizh mozhi poal inidhaavadhu engum kaanom*). Paavendar Bharathidasan has said: ‘Tamil also is called nectar; that Tamil, sweet Tamil is as precious as our life’ (*“Thamizhukkum amudhendru paer; andha Thamizh inba Thamizh engal uyirukku naer”*).

The antiquity and long history of Kumari Kandam categorically establishes Tamil language as the most ancient language in the world. This is reiterated in a research work on History – “*Gnaalam mudhal maandhan kolgai*” – written by “Mozhi Gnaayiru” Devaneya Paavanar. Though languages including Greek, Hebrew and Latin are ancient languages, it is only our mother tongue Tamil which enjoys everlasting fame and remains the most ancient language whose time of origin cannot be gauged. Praising the antiquity of the Tamil Language, Mahakavi Bharathyiar says: ‘None can understand our Mother’s age’ (*“Eval endru pirandhaval endru unaraatha eyalbinalaam engal Thaai”*). Devaneya Pavanar attributes 16 qualities to our Tamil language – antiquity (*thonmai*), precedence (*munmai*), simplicity (*elimai*), excellence (*onmai*), youthfulness (*ilamai*), richness (*valamai*), motherhood (*thaaimai* - producing offspring), purity (*thooymai*), fertility (*semmai*), three-foldness (*mummai*), pleasantness (*inimai*), uniqueness (*thanimai*), greatness (*perumai*), divinity (*thirumai*), capability (*iyanmai*) and proliferation (*viyanmai*).

Tamil language has script, word, poetry, figure of speech and grammar. That is why Tamil is described as grammar of five (*Ainthilakkanam*). As sound of Tamil letters is natural and felicitous, the words of the language can be pronounced without difficulty. Several hundred literary and grammar works, not found in other languages, add richness to the Tamil language. Among the world’s ancient languages, Tamil is the one that is still extant both as literature and as a spoken language.

The best book in such a glorious Tamil language, is Thirukkural, penned by Thiruvalluvar who is known by all as ‘Deiva Pulavar’ (Divine Poet). It is no exaggeration to say that Thirukkural is one of the literary works translated in most of the world languages.

All the couplets in Thirukkural belong to the category of *Kural venba*. In those days, this was the only work written in this style. It gained the name “*Thirukkural*” as it is composed in ‘*Kural venba*’ metre (*Kural*) and in recognition of its greatness (*Thiru*).

In the world’s many languages, there are many books to guide people to benefit from life. Of these books, there are three that reveal the intelligence and profound intellect of their authors. The first is the ‘*Tripitika*’ of Gauthama Buddha’s teachings, the second is the ethical work, ‘*Analects*’ of Confucius, the Chinese philosopher who was more or less a contemporary of Buddha, and the third is Thiruvalluvar’s “*Thirukkural*” from Tamil Nadu.

Thirukkural is hailed as a universally applicable literary work that reveals the truth of ‘*aram*, *porul* and *inbam*’ (righteousness, economy and enjoyment). In his work, Thiruvalluvar has beautifully codified the ethics

that man who is endowed with six senses should adopt in life. They have been classified to suit the different ways of life. To cite an example, it shines as a work of ethics for those who wish to explore righteousness, a work of wisdom to those who wish to develop intellectual skills, an epic for those who wish to enjoy the poetry and a guide book to those who want to lead a disciplined life.

As it deals with the universal truths in couplets, it has earned the name '*Eeradi*' and the name "*Muppaal*" as it has three major divisions - '*aram, porul, inbam*'. Among many other names, *Thirukkural* is hailed as '*Utharavedam*', '*Poyyamozhi*', '*Vaayurai Vazhthu*', '*Deiva Nool*', '*Podhu Marai*', '*Thamizh Marai*', '*Eeradi Nool*' and '*Vaan Marai*'. As its tenets are universally applicable at all times, *Thirukkural* is called '*Ulaga podhumarai*' (universally applicable ethics).

I wish to mention, here, a few of the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government to spread the greatness of Thirukkural and Thiruvalluvar all over the world and for the development of Tamil language:

✶ The Tamil Nadu Government celebrates the second day of the month of '*Thai*' (Tamil calendar) every year as Thiruvalluvar Day to make his greatness known to the world. On that day, his statue is garlanded and his portrait is sprinkled with flower petals.

✶ Awards are distributed to Tamil scholars who work for the Tamil language in a way to add glory to it.

✶ A Thiruvalluvar Award is given every year.

✶ A pictorial exhibition on Thirukkural has been set up, on the orders of Hon'ble Amma and with the assistance of Government funds, at the International Institute of Tamil Research campus at Taramani, Chennai, as visual representation is more effective in conveying the significance of Thirukkural. Students and foreigners visit the exhibition daily and are benefited.

✶ A book - 'Thirukural in the script of Thiruvalluvar's days' ('*Thiruvalluvar Kala Ezhuthil Thirukkural'*) - has been published through the efforts of the International Institute of Tamil Research to fulfill the desire that Thirukkural

should be seen once again in its original form, written in the script of those days. Besides making known to the world that this work has been written in the ancient Tamil script (*Tamil Brahmi*), this book will reveal Thirukkural's antiquity to the world. I released this book on 11.12.2018.

✶ This Government continues the wonderful event of garlanding every year the statues of '*Thamizh Thatha*' U.V.Swaminatha Iyer, '*Thamizh Moodhaatti*' Avvaiyar, '*Kavi Chakravarthi*' Kambar, Elango Adigalar, '*Thamizh Arignar*' Robert Caldwell, 'Father of Pure Tamil Movement' Maraimalai Adigalar and '*Thamizh Thendral*' Thiru.V.Kalyanasundaranar, sprinkling flower petals on their portraits and paying respect to them, bearing in mind their services to the Tamil language and their creativity.

✶ Perarignar Anna, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma enhanced the glory of the Tamil language by holding respectively the second, fifth and eighth editions of World Tamil Conference.

✶ Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar set up the Tamil University at Thanjavur in 1981.

✶ The '*Pathinen Keezhkanakku*' books, barring Thirukkural have been translated into the world languages of French and German and in the Indian languages of Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam, to help people all over the world to know about the richness of Tamil language. The translated works were released by me on 19.12.2019.

✶ A statue of Tholkappiar who added glory to Tamil language was declared open on 10.03.2019.

- ✶ The grandeur of the Tamil language is on account of the richness of its words. To protect and develop this richness and to support the prevention of the admixture of other language words in Tamil, I announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly that a scheme '*Sorkuvai*' (Word Repositary) – will be implemented. Work on the scheme is going on, by getting suggestions from scholars from different fields for bringing all the words in the Tamil language in one website after cataloguing them
- ✶ The Tamil Nadu Government has given Rs.10 crore for setting up a Chair for Tamil in Harvard University in the United States.
- ✶ The Tamil Nadu Government has given Rs. One crore as its share for setting up a Chair for Tamil in Houston University, Texas State, USA.
- ✶ Also, steps are being taken to set up Chair for Tamil in many other Universities.
- ✶ Whenever the AIADMK takes over the administration of the State, it has increased the number of awards given to Tamil scholars by way of honouring them. In that way, the number of awardees honoured by the Tamil Development Department has now come to 72 from just 5.

Like these, I am proud to say, Hon'ble Amma's Government has recorded countless achievements.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to the Tamil scholars who have received the awards. My good wishes to many more Tamil scholars who will win awards through their service to Tamil language. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

In a Village called Solaiyur, people were suffering from starvation on account of drought. Elders in the Village went in a group to a rich man there and said: "You know the plight of our town. Adults can endure hunger but what can children do? They have to be helped out." The

rich man said: "I will certainly help. How many boys and girls are there in our Village"? he asked. One of the elders replied, " Forty boys and girls are there".

The rich man immediately said: "Ask them to come to my house in the morning every day. I will direct that 40 loaves of bread be placed in a basket. Let each of them take one and appease their hunger". Accordingly, the children came every day, took a loaf and satiated their hunger. However, the children started competing with one another for taking the biggest loaf. But one girl kept herself aloof and took the loaf that was left behind after all the others had taken theirs.

Days passed like this. One day, when the girl went back home with a small piece of bread that was left for her and broke it, she found a gold coin inside the bread. The girl's mother told her: " This gold coin is from the rich man's house; somehow it has come into the bread. Go back and return the coin to the rich man". The girl did accordingly and returned the coin. The rich man said: "This is the prize I have given you for your patience. Keep it" and gave back the gold coin to the girl. The girl went back home happily.

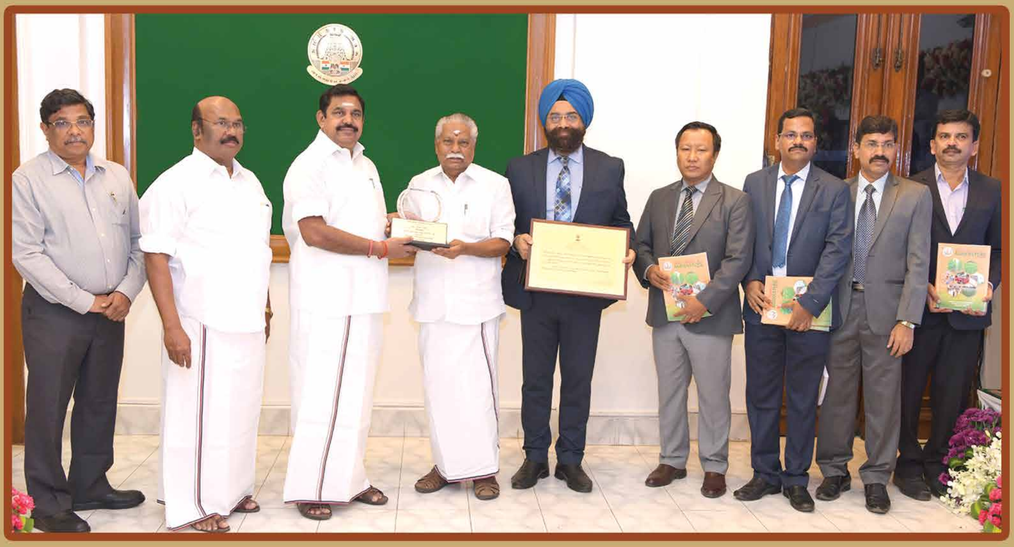
While greeting the upcoming Tamil scholars I would like to convey the message that like the girl in the story they too will get awards at the appropriate time if they are patient and prove their mettle. I convey my appreciation to all the good hearts who have made good arrangements for this event. I take leave of you, saying, "What God spoke to Man is (Bhagawad) Gita; what man spoke to God is Thiruvasagam and what Man spoke to Man is Thirukkural".

Nandri! Vanakkam!

73rd Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

On the 73rd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** paid floral tributes to the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi placed near his statue on the Marina in Chennai on 30.01.2020. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O.Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Chief Secretary and high officials were present.

Tamil Nadu proudly brings in its fifth Krishi Karman Award



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 13.01.2020, expressed his congratulations when the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. R.Doraikkannu, showed him the Krishi Karman Award of the Central Government for Tamil Nadu, for achieving a record production of 10.382 lakh metric tonnes of oilseeds for the year 2017-2018. Tamil Nadu won the award for the fifth year and it was given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at a function in Tumkur in Karnataka on 02.01.2020.

Tamil Nadu has achieved a record double production in food grains, thanks to the Second Green Revolution and Food Grains movement, introduced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the year 2011-2012. Due to Tamil Nadu's good schemes and technical innovations adopted by the Agriculture Department, the State achieved a record yield of more than 100 lakh metric tonnes of food grains during the financial years 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

In the year 2011-2012, the food grains production was 101.52 lakh metric tonnes, the pulses production in the year 2013-2014 was 6.14 lakh metric tonnes, in 2014-2015 small millets production was 40.79 lakh metric tonnes and in 2015-2016 total food grains production was 113.85 lakh tonnes. For these records, the State bagged the Krishi Karman Award from the Central Government.

Similarly the State was selected for the Krishi Karman Award for the fifth time by the Central Government for the year 2017-2018 for producing a record yield of 10.382 lakh metric tonnes in oilseeds. The Hon'ble Prime Minister honoured the State by handing over the Award and a cash prize of Rs.2 crore to Tamil Nadu at a function in Tumkur in Karnataka on 02.01.2020. At the function, oilseeds farmers Thiru. Senthilkumar of Cuddalore District and Tmt.Papathi of Namakkal District were also honoured for record yield in groundnut and gingelly and they were given Rs.2 lakh each and commendation certificates. ■

Tamil Nadu farmers reap benefits of manifold schemes

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on the occasion of Pongal - 14.01.2020 *(English Translation)*

"I extend my heartiest greetings to all my dearest people of Tamil Nadu who are joyfully celebrating the Tamil festival of Pongal.

"On the occasion of Pongal, people happily decorate their houses with colourful kolams, offer turmeric, sugarcane, ginger, vegetables and fruits to God and cook Pongal in new pots. When the Pongal rises in the pot, they express their happiness by calling out, *'Pongalo Pongal'*.

"For developing agriculture, the noblest occupation of the world and to improve the livelihood of farmers, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes.

"These schemes include 100 per cent subsidy to small and marginal farmers for micro irrigation and 75 per cent subsidy for other farmers, Mission on Sustainable Dry land agriculture, cluster development to encourage small and marginal farmers to undertake co-operative farming, mechanization of agriculture in view of the paucity of agriculture labourers, introduction of Uzhavan App to keep farmers abreast of latest agriculture knowledge through information technology, Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam, distributing quality seeds to farmers through Tamil Nadu State Seeds Development Agency, ensuring higher income to farmers by reducing post-harvest loss of fruits and vegetables and converting them into value-added products, testing soil, issuing soil health card to suggest crop-wise recommendation of inputs and fertilizer and Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres.

"To enable people to celebrate Pongal festival happily, the Tamil Nadu Government has given gift hampers along with Rs.1,000 cash to all Rice Ration Card holders in the State. On this happy day, I once again extend my warm and happy Pongal greetings to all people and wish them a happy and healthy life blessed with all resources".

Tamil Nadu seeks permission for import of peas through Thoothukudi Port

Text of the D.O. letter dated 06.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** addressed to **Shri. Piyush Goyal**, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Dear Shri. Piyush Goyalji

I wish to bring to your kind notice the difficulties faced by the Dhal and Flour Mills, falling under the MSME sector, who had submitted a representation to me, in procuring Peas of various varieties for operating their Dhal and Flour mills in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Peas which are mainly used for preparation of traditional and region-specific snacks, are being cultivated in an area of 5.40 lakh Hectares across India, with an annual estimated production of 54.22 lakh Metric tonnes. Peas cultivation is taken up in cooler regions and hence grown only in a smaller extent in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, Peas, especially Green Peas are cultivated in an extent of 120 Ha with production of about 1,960 MT. The cultivation of Peas, mainly as yellow peas is confined to Northern, Central and North-Eastern States of our Country viz., Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Assam, etc., and are consumed mostly there itself.

Since, there is a heavy demand for Peas, which is used for preparing the traditional snacks, in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala, more than 1,000 micro, small and medium Dhal and Flour Mills are functioning in Tamil Nadu for processing the Peas and thereby providing direct employment opportunity to around 50,000 labourers and indirectly to over 65,000 persons. The average requirement of Peas in Tamil Nadu would be around Two Lakh Metric Tonne, of which maximum of 10,000 Metric tonnes alone are being transported from the Northern States.

Moreover, because of a heavy demand for Peas in other States, cost of Peas transported from the Northern States after fulfilling their internal demand is very high and can range upto Rs.60 per Kg. Hence, Peas are being imported from countries such as Australia, Canada, Russia etc., through Thoothukudi Sea port located in Tamil Nadu at cheaper rates

by the Dhal and Flour Mills functioning in Tamil Nadu.

In the meantime, the Director General of Foreign Trade has, on 18.12.2019, issued a Public Notification imposing a Restriction on the import of Peas to 1.5 lakh MT for the entire country. Due to this restriction, the cost of Peas has drastically increased to over Rs.65 per kg in Tamil Nadu. This ban has detrimentally affected the Dhal and Flour Mills operating as MSME units in Tamil Nadu and thereby the livelihood of labourers and others who depend on this trade. This restriction has also increased the demand and due to its shortage, the cost of Green Peas in Tamil Nadu has gone up.

Hence, I request that the Union Government may kindly permit the import of Peas with HSN Codes 07131010 (Yellow Peas), 07131020 (Green Peas) and 07131090 (Other) through Thoothukudi Sea port for the welfare of the Dhal and Flour milling trade in Tamil Nadu as well as the neighbouring southern States. This lifting of restriction on import of Peas through Thoothukudi Sea port, will hardly affect the domestic market in Northern States, which are broadly self-sufficient with in-house production of Peas.

I strongly recommend this case and request your favourable action.

News in Picture

In connection with ‘Thiruvalluvar Day’ on 16.01.2020, Hon’ble Ministers, other high Government Officials and VIPs paid floral tributes to the portrait of Thiruvalluvar placed near his statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reiterates opposition to hydrocarbon projects in Delta region

Text of the D.O. letter dated 20.01.2020 of the **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri. Prakash Javadekar,** Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

I wish to bring to your kind notice that the Ministry of Environment and Forests, under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has published the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 vide number S.O.1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006, mandating prior environmental clearance for certain category of projects, of which Off-shore and On-shore oil and gas exploration, development & production project was categorised under "Category A".

The Ministry have now issued an amendment to the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, for exploration drilling in respect of on-shore and off-shore oil and gas, vide notification dated 16.1.2020 stating that, "All projects in respect of off-shore and on-shore oil and gas development and production except exploration are categorised under Category A" and "All project in respect of off-shore and on-shore oil and gas exploration are categorized as 'B2' projects". As per the said EIA Notification, B2 projects shall not require public consultation.

I had written to the Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India vide letter dated 30.03.2017, highlighting the strong opposition to Hydrocarbon extraction projects in the delta area; the imperative need for adequate consultation with stakeholders and to ensure that the interest of farmers are fully safeguarded.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that projects involving exploration and extraction of Hydrocarbons have faced strong resistance from farmers/activists and other stakeholders in Tamil Nadu. Since, most of these projects are situated in the Cauvery Delta Districts, which is ecologically a fragile zone, but a very fertile region and rice bowl of the State, the opposition to these projects has been emotive and intense. Therefore, it is very essential to take the people and all stakeholders along, while implementing these projects, so that their co-operation and involvement is ensured. The present notification goes against this spirit.

I would also like to inform that before the issue of Notification dated 16.01.2020, no draft notification was circulated as mandated and no opportunity was given to the stakeholders and to the State Government to offer our views.

Considering these facts, I request that status quo ante may be maintained for Cauvery Delta Region, as it is an ecologically sensitive zone and necessary amendment may be issued to restore the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 vide number S.O.1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006, mandating prior Environmental Clearance & Public Consultation for "Off-shore and On-shore oil and gas exploration, development & production projects" and categorise them under "Category A" for Cauvery Delta area. ■

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** proceeds to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to attend the Budget Session for 2020-2021. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam accompanies him to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to present the Budget. (14.02.2020)

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